



029. 62. 26 (100)

FOR THE PEOPLE
FOR EDVCATION
FOR SCIENCE

LIBRARY
OF
THE AMERICAN MUSEUM
OF
NATURAL HISTORY

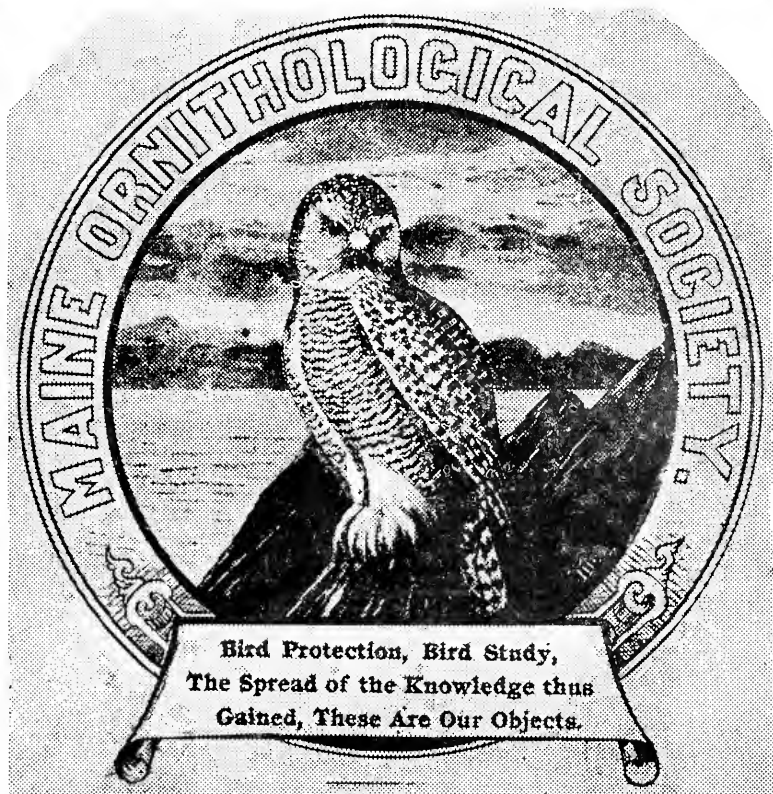
Vol. VIII
No. 1

15 cents a copy
50 cents a year

March, 1906

March 1906

The Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society



Editor, W. H. BROWNSON, Portland

Associate Editor, FRANK T. NOBLE, Augusta

Published by the Society at 97 1-2 Exchange Street, Portland, Maine

Entered as second class matter June 13, 1905, at the post office at Portland, Maine, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

..Standard Books on Birds..

FLOWERS, INSECTS, FISHES

and all Branches of Nature . . .

We can furnish on orders received by mail any nature book that you may want at a price that will be satisfactory to you. We have all the

STANDARD BIRD BOOKS

published, and can supply them promptly. Write us for information about anything you have in mind of this description, and we will reply at once. When you are in Portland call and see what we have on our shelves.

Ornithologists will always be welcome

at our store, and we shall be pleased to give all particulars about anything in the book line that may be desired. Our store is in Monument Square, where all the electric car lines center, and easily reached by all visitors to the city.

**LORING, SHORT & HARMON,
PORTLAND, MAINE.**

BIRD GUIDE

By CHESTER A. REED, S. B.

Author of North American Birds' Eggs and, with Frank M. Chapman, of Color Key to North American Birds. Editor of American Ornithology.

**It names the birds for you and pictures them in
their natural colors**

This is a popular guide and text-book to ALL THE LAND BIRDS EAST OF THE ROCKIES, from the Parrots to the Bluebirds. It is prepared especially for teachers and nature students for use in the field. Every bird is shown in NATURAL COLORS, including females and young where they differ. It gives the range and habits of each bird, their songs as nearly as can be written, and description of their nests and eggs. It can easily be carried in the pocket, measuring but 3 x 5 inches. 220 pages, bound in flexible sock cloth, postpaid

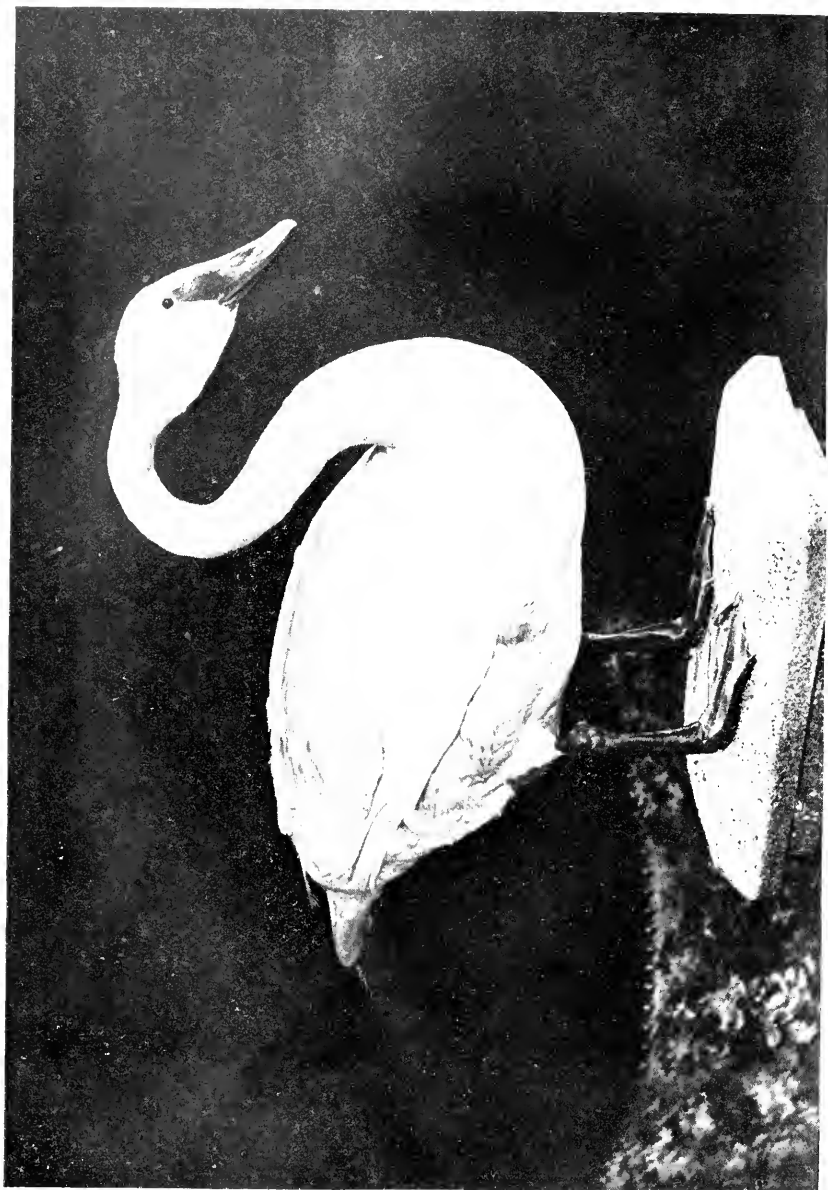
for 50 cents

or in flexible leather for 75 cents, postpaid. We want agents in every city, town and school.

GOOD COMMISSIONS PAID

Send for prospectus of BIRD BOOKS and sample copy of THE AMERICAN BIRD MAGAZINE

CHAS. K. REED, WORCESTER, MASS.



WHOOPING SWAN (*Olor cygnus*),
(MOUNTED.)

IN THE COLLECTION OF CLARENCE H. CLARK, LUBEC.

The Journal

of the

Maine Ornithological Society

Published by the Society on the first of March, June, September and December

Vol. VIII

MARCH, 1906

No. 1

Proceedings of the Tenth Annual Meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society.

The tenth annual meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society convened at Portland, December 1-2, 1905. A business meeting was called in the lecture room of the Portland Society of Natural History, Elm street, with President Leslie A. Lee in the chair, Friday, at 2.00 P. M. The following officers and members were present :

OFFICERS:—Prof. L. A. Lee, President; J. Merton Swain, Secretary and Treasurer; Prof. O. W. Knight, Councillor; W. H. Brownson, Editor.

MEMBERS:—Arthur H. Norton, Portland; Mrs. Arthur H. Norton, Portland; Walter C. Rich, Portland; Miss C. M. Stevens, Portland; Hiram Ellis, Portland; Miss S. C. Eastman, Portland; Everett Smith, Portland; Prof. Wm. L. Powers, Gardiner; Frank Smith, Gardiner; Miss Marion Soule, Gardiner; Prof. E. F. Hitchings, Waterville; C. F. Richards, Rockport; Sherman E. Phillips, Rochester, N. H.; Mrs. O. W. Knight, Bangor; Miss Mabel P. Ridley, Castine; Dana W. Sweet, Phillips; Hon. James Carroll Mead, North Bridgton; Mrs. James Carroll Mead, North Bridgton; Fred M. David, Damariscotta.

The following names were proposed by the secretary for membership :

ACTIVE:—Prof. Albert F. Richardson, Castine; W. A. Walker,

Castine; Prof. E. F. Hitchings, Waterville; Daniel W. Fox, Portland; Frank A. Smith, Gardiner; Mrs. Wm. Ellis, Gardiner; Mrs. Abbie Dingley, Gardiner; Arthur T. Reynolds, Gardiner; Miss Flora Berry, Portland; Miss Etta Parker, Portland; Mrs. Fred P. Abbott, Saco; Miss Carrie Fuller, Rockport; Miss Annie B. Ingraham, Rockport; Wm. H. Whipple, Portland; Mrs. Gilman H. Davis, Portland; Miss C. M. Stevens, Portland.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:—Fred B. Spaulding, Lancaster, N. H.; B. G. Willard, Millis, Mass.

Mr. Norton moved that the secretary be instructed to cast the ballot for the society. The ballot was cast and the above members were declared elected by the president.

The following committees were appointed by the president:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:—A. H. Norton, Wm. L. Powers, Mabel P. Ridley.

AUDITING COMMITTEE:—S. E. Phillips, O. W. Knight.

RESOLUTIONS:—W. H. Brownson, Hiram Ellis.

Prof. Powers, chairman of committee on society emblem, reported to accept the emblem offered by W. C. Rich, with a few minor changes. His report was adopted and the committee discharged.

The report of the committee on financing the new list of birds of Maine was called for, but Mr. Noble, chairman, was not present, and it was voted to lay the matter on the table to come up for action later.

Mr. J. M. Swain then read his report as secretary and treasurer for 1905. The report shows that the financial condition of the society is not what could be desired, and points out the fact that it is very desirable for the members to make an active canvass to add a much larger list of names to the membership. It was voted to refer the report to the auditing committee.

President Lee then gave his annual report or address. He spoke of the good work that had been accomplished by the society since its organization. In reviewing the work of the past, he spoke interestingly on the following topics:

1st. One of the most important features of the society was the organization and bringing the working students of ornithology together, and the success of their efforts in publishing "The Birds of Maine," under the able editorship of Prof. Ora W. Knight. He spoke highly of this State list and of the increase of interest this list occasioned among the bird students, and the success attained in collecting notes and additions for a new work on the birds of Maine, which he hoped the society would soon be able to publish.

2nd. He spoke of the efforts of the society that have been so successful through its legislative committee. Much has been attained in this line of work that now affords a much better protection to the sea and shore birds, as well as to our song birds. Of this work alone and its accomplishment the society should be proud.

3rd. The society has also been very instrumental in exciting the public to a deeper interest in nature study by the good work done by its Audubon society committee, as well as by attracting the public into our annual meetings, the personal efforts of its individual members, through newspaper reports of the society and its work, and through the perusal of our society organ, *THE JOURNAL*.

4th. One of the most helpful and interesting, as well as instructive, works accomplished has been the ever-increasing interest taken in bird photography, which has made possible the getting together the large list of beautiful lantern slides, which has excited a deeper interest in bird life, both in the members who have attended the lectures and the public who have come in to see the pictures. He expressed the hope that a greater interest might be taken in this most instructive form of bird study by all the members of the society.

5th. He then spoke of the good done through the publication of *THE JOURNAL*, of its yearly increase and improvement, and of the greater possibilities to be accomplished if we can get a larger list of contributors and subscribers. The success attained has been through the efforts of a faithful few, and he predicted for the *JOURNAL*, a bright future if it could be better supported by a larger, more complete list of contributors. He considered this work the most

important feature of the society, and hoped a marked interest might be taken in its publication by all our members.

6th. The society should make a more extensive study of variations and thus advance the science of evolution; also dissection and the study of the skeleton and structure of the bones, to advance our knowledge of comparative anatomy.

7th. Embryology of birds needs the attention of our members. He spoke of the marked interest shown in the society by its members and the public. It has a future before it, and can be made larger and better, and accomplish that which the society may well be proud of.

Mr. Walter C. Rich was here introduced. He gave a most interesting paper and talk on the variations and comparisons of the Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) and the Canadian Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus togata*). This paper was one of the most interesting and instructive features of the meetings. It was listened to with a great deal of pleasure. Mr. Rich had a large series of specimens of Grouse from Portland and vicinity, and Mr. Norton had, for comparison, several specimens of *Umbellus* from the type locality. Mr. Rich's specimens showed a broad range of variation in colors and markings, some of his Maine birds being nearer typical of *Umbellus* than some of the birds from the type locality. One specimen was unique in being albinistic. Much interest was shown by the members and visitors in examining the large series of specimens on exhibition.

The subject was then opened for discussion. Prof. Knight spoke of the change in color of the plumage of the Finches in captivity occasioned by a change in foods, and suggested that the difference in locality, with a difference in foods, might have some bearing on the difference in color of the plumage of the Grouse.

Prof. Hitchings spoke of the change in color of insects by a change of food and asked: "If insects change in color through a change in food, why not birds?" He spoke of a half-grown Grouse he had once in captivity. In two months it was so tame it would take food from his hand.

Mr. Everett Smith then spoke of a case he saw in France of a Finch kept in captivity, and by a change in foods a change in the color of the breast was very noticeable.

The secretary spoke of the rearing of Grouse in captivity by Prof. Hodge, of Clark University, followed by Prof. Powers and several other members.

Prof. Lee spoke of the destruction of our Grouse by cats, that from lack of care become partially wild. He spoke of a man who set twelve traps, and two days later had five cats in his traps.

Mr. Everett Smith was next called and gave an interesting illustrated talk on "Note on the Peculiarity of the Skeleton of the Brown Pelican." Attention was called to the sternum and clavicle, there being no articulation or separation. He said this peculiarity he had never noticed in any other bird skeleton, and he had never seen this peculiarity mentioned in any publication.

Attention was then called to the series of Maine Warblers that was on exhibition. The series, showing male and female of all the Warblers known to occur in Maine, was complete, with the exception of the Connecticut Warbler and Louisiana Water Thrush.

Mr. Norton, chairman of the nominating committee, reported that the committee recommended the re-election of the old board of officers for the ensuing year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mead, and Mr. Norton was instructed to cast the ballot for the society, which he did, and the following officers were declared elected: President, Leslie A. Lee, Brunswick; Vice-President, H. H. Brock, M. D., Portland; Secretary and Treasurer, J. Merton Swain, Skowhegan; Editor, W. H. Brownson, Portland; Councillor, Capt. H. L. Spinney, Seguin; Councillor, Ora W. Knight, M. S. C., Bangor.

On motion of Mr. Norton, the meeting was adjourned until evening.

FRIDAY EVENING.

The public meeting was called to order by Pres. Lee at 8.00 P. M. The lecture room was full, every seat being taken, and standing room was hardly to be had. Prof. Lee operated the lantern, and the

first speaker was Mr. W. H. Brownson, of Portland, who chose for his subject, "A Visit to the Home of the Gulls." Many beautiful views were shown to illustrate the trip to the breeding colonies near Matineus. Two views of especial interest were shown of Capt. Mark Young, of No Man's land, a faithful warden in the employ of the A. O. U. bird protection committee. Mr. Brownson's talk was very pleasing and instructive, and held the close attention of the large audience. Mr. J. Merton Swain then described a series of pictures entitled, "Inland Birds and their Nests," followed by an interesting talk on "Views of Bird Life in Maine," by Mr. Arthur H. Norton, which concluded the lectures. The audience then inspected the series of Grouse specimens and the Warbler series. The meeting was a decided success.

SATURDAY FORENOON.

The meeting was called to order at 9.30 A. M., Prof. Lee in the chair.

Mr. Norton suggested that the society elect Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown, of Portland, to honorary membership. The motion was seconded by Mr. James Carroll Mead, and Mr. Brown was unanimously elected. The secretary was instructed to place his name on the list and send notice of election to Mr. Brown.

Prof. Powers informed the members present that he had just learned that an honorary member, Prof. J. Y. Stanton, of Lewiston, had slipped and broken his hip. The society thereupon voted to place Prof. Powers on the committee on resolutions, and that resolutions of sympathy be drawn up, to be sent to Prof. Stanton, for the society.

Mr. J. Merton Swain was then called and read a paper, "Notes on the Swamp Sparrow in Maine." This paper was followed by remarks by Messrs. Brownson, Hitchings, Norton, Knight, Mead, Sweet and Powers.

The auditing committee stated they were ready to report, and Mr. Sherman E. Phillips, chairman, reported they had examined

the books of the secretary, treasurer, and editor-publisher and found them correct. It was voted to accept this report.

Then followed an informal discussion on "Phases of Bird Life in Maine" by the members. Prof. Lee spoke of the tendency he had noticed among English Sparrows to albinism and reported several that he had observed in different localities. Miss Mabel P. Ridley mentioned an albino Robin seen in Castine, also one with white on its head, seen at the same place. The secretary spoke extensively on bird life observed by him on his trips through several counties in Maine. Several other members spoke on various observations they had made. This feature proved very interesting and instructive.

Mr. J. M. Swain then read a paper, "Notes on the Meadow-lark and Prairie Horned Lark in Maine," followed by remarks and discussions by several members.

The matter of publication of the new work on the birds of Maine was discussed at length. It was voted to discharge the old committee on financing the work and a new committee was appointed by nomination, as follows: Prof. L. A. Lee, W. H. Brownson, Wm. L. Powers. Prof. Lee then stated that he would be one of twenty to stand responsible for the publication of this work. He was followed by Messrs. Powers, Swain, Brownson and Mead. The matter was then left in charge of the committee.

Prof. Knight stated that the manuscript for this work could be ready as soon as the funds were assured and said that about one hundred copies are already subscribed for.

Mr. Brownson, chairman on resolutions, reported as follows:

Resolved, That the officers and members of the Maine Ornithological Society learn with great sadness of the accident recently sustained by Prof. J. V. Stanton, our honorary member from Lewiston, Me. And be it further

Resolved, That we extend to Prof. Stanton our sympathy in his affliction, and that we express to him and his family our hope that his recovery may be complete and that he may be long spared to

continue the great work to which his noble life has been so unselfishly given.

Resolved, That the thanks of the society be extended to its President, Prof. Lee, for his labors in providing the lantern and large number of interesting slides for the evening meeting.

Resolved, That the thanks of the society be extended to the Boston & Maine R. R. and Maine Central R. R. for reduced fares, and to the Portland Society of Natural History for free use of its rooms for holding its annual meeting.

W. H. BROWNSON,

HIRAM ELLIS,

WM. L. POWERS.

It was voted to accept and adopt this report and spread it on the records and to send copy to those who are mentioned therein.

The matter of a place for the next meeting was discussed. Portland, Brunswick and Lewiston were suggested. The matter was left for action by the council, to report later in the JOURNAL.

On motion of Prof. Powers, voted to adjourn *sine die*.

J. MERTON SWAIN,

Secretary.

Contributions to the Life History of the Nashville Warbler.

Helminthophila rubricapilla (Wils.).

By ORA W. KNIGHT.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION — MIGRATION RANGE.—Eastern North America, ranging north into Newfoundland and passing southward in winter through the Central States and eastern Texas into Mexico and rarely to Guatemala; accidental in Greenland, South Carolina and Florida, and seemingly not recorded from Alabama, Mississippi or Louisiana.

BREEDING RANGE.—From Massachusetts, Connecticut, north-

ern New Jersey, northern Illinois and northern Nebraska northward to Newfoundland and the Great Slave Lake region; the breeding range seems to be limited to the Alleghanian and Canadian faune.

WINTER RANGE. — States of Puebla, Vera Cruz, eastern Oaxaca, Chiapas, and Campeche in Mexico, rarely south into Guatemala and occasionally north to the Rio Grande River and Texas.

The Nashville Warblers do not hurry into Maine at the approach of spring weather, but rather prefer to await the time when warm weather is more surely established. They appear in southern Maine about May 7th, and in the region about Bangor the average date of arrival is about May 15th, varying somewhat from as early as the 10th to as late even as the 20th.

During migration they may be found in scattered bands (associated with other Warblers and very often accompanied by one or two Tennessee Warblers), frequenting the edges of woods and thickets and almost always to be found at this season in alder thickets and bushes bordering roads, brooks, rivers, ponds or lakes. A smaller proportion of individuals may be found scattered by ones and twos through open hard-wood growth and in the taller trees.

They are quiet, unpretentious little busybodies, silently passing from twig to twig in search of food. They do not seem to make any particular demonstrations of love or affection for their companions, nor have I ever observed the ceremony of selecting their mates, such as so commonly occurs with some others of our Warblers.

During the nesting season they frequent rather open hard-wood growth, most often placing their nest on some mossy hummock near the edge of the woods. They will by choice seek birch growth in the vicinity of Bangor, nesting either near the edge of the woods or in a bushy pasture or thicket. In northern Maine I have found them nesting on hillsides among rather open spruce growth, placing the nest in moss on the ground.

Nest building begins soon after the birds are established in their summer homes. Presumably the female does most of the work, as while watching an individual nest building I heard its mate in a near-by sapling repeatedly singing "pea-cie-pea-cie'hit-I-hit-I-hit."

Finally he deigned to fly down and supervise the nest building, even bringing one or two small particles of fiber, but the exertion was too much and he retired to sing from a near-by tree.

The nests are always placed on the ground, usually at the foot of some small bush or on a hummock and concealed in the moss. It takes seven to nine days to build the nest, and on its completion an egg is laid each day until the set is completed. The eggs are usually laid between 6 and 10 A. M. The process of incubation begins as soon as the first egg is laid. Four eggs are usually laid, but often five or three is the complement. The ground color of the eggs is white, and they are minutely speckled with dots of reddish-brown, lilac and shades of intermediate color. The specks are thickest about the larger end of the eggs. A set of three eggs observed at Fort Kent, Maine, July 10, 1904, measured respectively: .66 x .46, .64 x .48, .64 x .49 in. The nest was composed of fine moss, fine grass and spruce twigs, lined with fine pine needles and grass. Its outside diameter was $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches; inside diameter, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches; depth outside, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches; inside, 1 inch.

This nest was situated on an open wooded hillside at the foot of and between two small spruce trees, imbedded in the moss. Nests from central Maine contain less moss and twigs and rather more pine needles and grass, but are otherwise the same in general size and appearance.

The earliest date when eggs have been found near Bangor is June 3rd, while the latest nesting date at hand for the species is the one previously mentioned as found at Fort Kent, July 10th, with nearly fresh eggs. The period of incubation, as nearly as I have been able to determine it, is slightly over eleven days. One bird relieves the other on the nest, and at times when the eggs were very near the hatching point I have seen the male bring insect food to its mate on the nest. Possibly the male may feed its mate at earlier stages of the process of incubation, but I have never happened to notice it.

Both birds join in feeding the young and supply them with in-

sect food, such as soft grubs and caterpillars at first, later bringing small beetles, flies, and other sorts of insects.

The natal down is sepia-brown in color and is rapidly replaced by the juvenal plumage by a complete moult. The young leave the nest about the eleventh day after hatching. They acquire the first winter plumage by a partial post-juvenal moult, beginning late in July, and then become practically indistinguishable from adults in most instances. A partial pre-nuptial moult in spring gives to the young their first nuptial plumage. A complete post-nuptial moult in late July of the second year gives the young their adult winter plumage.

The food of the adult birds is, as far as I have been able to ascertain by direct examination, exclusively of an animal nature, consisting of various species of beetles, larvæ of various insects, almost any species of small insects obtainable in the localities frequented by the birds, and the eggs of many species of insects.

The southern migration begins in September. In the vicinity of Bangor they are common as late as Sept. 21st to Sept. 28th, according to the season, but disappear very quickly, many being seen one day and none the next.

Christmas Bird Census.

**Reports of Winter Birds by Members of the Maine Ornithological Society
During the Week, December 24 to 31, Inclusive.**

At the annual meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society, in Portland, Dec. 1, 1905, it was proposed that the members, so far as they were able, should report the number of species of birds and the approximate number of individuals of each species observed in their several localities in different parts of the State. The response to this suggestion was general among the members, many sending reports to say that they had not been able to see a single bird and others submitting lists of good size. The result will show pretty accurately

the abundance of birds in Maine at that season of the year, as well as their relative distribution. Here are the reports in detail :

W. H. BROWNSON, Portland.

Observations in Portland, South Portland, Cape Elizabeth, Old Orchard, Scarboro and Casco Bay :

Purple Finch, 20 ; Myrtle Warbler, 13 ; Northern Shrike, 2 ; Robin, 2 ; Herring Gull, 400 ; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 5 ; Crow, 62 ; Downy Woodpecker, 1 ; Loon, 5 ; Horned Grebe, 35 ; Black-backed Gull, 5 ; Red-legged Black Duck, 35 ; Old Squaw, 75 ; White-winged Scoter, 450 ; Ruffed Grouse, 1 ; Horned Lark, 30 ; Snow Bunting, 7 ; Chickadee, 11 ; Eider Duck, 7 ; Kittiwake, 20 ; Goosander, 1 ; Purple Sandpiper, 1 ; Black Guillemot, 25 ; American Scaup Duck, 10. 24 species, 1,223 individuals.

ARTHUR H. NORTON, Portland.

Observations in Casco Bay, one day :

Eider Duck, 7 ; Kittiwake, 20 ; Goosander, 1 ; Purple Sandpiper, 1 ; Loon, 2 ; Black Guillemot, 25 ; White-winged Scoter, 400 ; American Scaup Duck, 10 ; Red-legged Black Duck, 1 ; Crow, 20 ; Herring Gull, 200. 11 species, 687 individuals.

LOUIS E. LEGGE, Portland.

Observations in Portland, South Portland, Cape Elizabeth, Windham, Old Orchard and Scarboro :

Crow, 18 ; Herring Gull, 375 ; Myrtle Warbler, 15 ; Purple Finch, 15 ; Northern Shrike, 5 ; Robin, 3 ; Ruffed Grouse, 1 ; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 19 ; Tree Sparrow, 8 ; Chickadee, 15 ; White-winged Scoter, 35 ; Old Squaw, 50 ; Black-backed Gull, 5 ; Snow Bunting, 6 ; Horned Lark, 16 ; Horned Grebe, 25 ; Loon, 3 ; Red-legged Black Duck, 30. 18 species, 641 individuals.

CLARENCE H. CLARK, Lubec.

The Christmas week bird census was a happy thought and surely will bring good results. If nothing else, it will awaken the interest in birds during the season when their song is not heard and their number is small.

I spent the whole week "afield and afloat" and send you the result as observed in this locality and covering about twenty-five square miles. The "number estimated to be here" is based on my own observation and that of other observers who were out at the same time. The "exact number seen" is my personal record. There are several other birds which I should have seen but was not fortunate enough to do so. The Canada Geese are considered to be two weeks later than previous records, but the flock seemed to be broken up and without a leader, which probably accounts for it. The Buffleheads are decreasing every year. Crows are unusually numerous for winter. Northern Shrikes seem to be increasing and are doing considerable damage among the small birds. They prefer Snowflakes, Kinglets and Nuthatches to English Sparrows and mice.

Ravens are struggling to hold their own, but with poor success. Robins are not as plentiful this winter as in previous winters. Golden-crowned Kinglets are unusually numerous.

	Exact number seen.	Number estimated to be here.		Exact number seen.	Number estimated to be here.
American Crow,	300	500	Great Horned Owl,	1	
American Herring			Northern Shrike,	6	25
Gull,	2,000	3,000	Hairy Woodpecker,	2	
Old Squaw,	300	600	Northern Raven,	2	6
American Golden-			Ruffed Grouse,	2	
eye,	300	600	Bald Eagle,	1	2
Bufflehead,	20	50	Robin,	2	12
American Mergan-			Snowflake,	75	200
ser,	2	12	Chickadee,	40	100
Red-legged Black			Tree Sparrow,	50	100
Duck,	25	100	Golden-crowned		
Canada Geese,	25		Kinglet,	45	100
Loon,	1	12	Red-breasted Nut-		
Saw-whet Owl,	1		hatch,	20	50

22 species, 3,220 individuals.

MISS E. M. GRIGGS, Westbrook.

Dec. 24th, Pine Grosbeaks at Cumberland Mills, feeding on mountain ash berries. Dec. 25th, Chickadees and Goldfinches, feeding on seeds of weeds on hillside garden. Dec. 26th, a few Crows. Dec. 28th, Chickadees. Dec. 30th, Chickadees and Blue Jays and some quite large birds flying in and about lilac bushes. Think them Tree Sparrows.

J. MERTON SWAIN, Skowhegan.

My regular work took me over the territory below mentioned, and no time was offered me to look after birds, except what I saw during my drives and while on the train. I made a special effort to keep an "eye out" at all times for bird life, with the following results:

Sunday, Dec. 24. Weather very warm and clear. Place, Skowhegan. Birds seen: Tree Sparrow, 1; Chickadee, 2. Was not away from the house all day.

Monday, Dec. 25. Thermometer at 7 A. M., zero. Warm and clear all day; unusually warm weather for Christmas. Was about Skowhegan all day. Birds seen: Tree Sparrow, 2; Chickadee, 3; Northern Hairy Woodpecker, 1.

Tuesday, Dec. 26. Thermometer zero at 7 A. M. Cloudy in forenoon, cleared at noon. With a pair of horses and driver, I left Skowhegan at 7 A. M., driving to Norridgewock, Mercer, New Sharon, Farmington Falls and Farmington (29 miles), then took train from Farmington to Phillips in the afternoon. Birds seen: Chickadees, 3, near Mercer; Canada Ruffed Grouse, 3; Crow, 1, near New Sharon; White-bellied Nuthatch, 1; American Goldfinch, 30; Snowflakes, about 100; Snowy Owl, 1.

Wednesday, Dec. 27. Very clear and warm. Took train at Phillips at 7.30 to Farmington; drove to Allen's Mills (6 miles) and back. Was about Farmington and West Farmington. In the afternoon drove to East Wilton and Wilton (8 miles). Birds seen: Canada Ruffed Grouse, 3; Goldfinch, 7; Snowflake, 5; Northern

Shrike, 1; American Goshawk, young-of-the-year plumage, chasing Pigeons, 1.

Thursday, Dec. 28. Very warm and bright, thawing all day. Looks like spring weather. Drove from Wilton to Dryden, No. Jay, Jay, Chisholm's, Riley and Livermore Falls, and to East Livermore and back to the Falls. Birds seen: Hawk Owl, 1; Chickadee, 3; Goldfinch, 9; also an oddity among a flock of House Sparrows. At Wilton I saw a Black Sparrow among the rest. The bird was shot for me, but was badly torn. Plumage was perfectly black and was as glossy as a Crow's plumage. Unfortunately the skin could not be saved.

Friday, Dec. 29. Cloudy but warm at 7 A. M.; looks like snow. Began snowing at 8 A. M. Saw two flocks of Snow Buntings near Livermore Falls, one with 4, the other 38; 1 Crow. At 10 A. M., snow turned to rain. Rained hard rest of the day. Took train for New Meadows. Saw 30 Herring Gulls on ice in New Meadows River, and 12 Crows. In the afternoon, took train for Warren and electrics to Rockland. Saw 11 Herring Gulls at Wiscasset, 7 Herring Gulls at Newcastle, 21 Herring Gulls at Thomaston, and 27 Crows along the Knox & Lincoln R. R.

Saturday, Dec. 30. Very warm and clear all day. Took train at 5.15 A. M. for Damariscotta. A heavy thunder shower about 11.30 P. M. last night. Very heavy thunder and sharp lightning at Rockland and Damariscotta, too. Saw 3 Crows at Newcastle, 7 Herring Gulls at Newcastle, 39 Herring Gulls at New Meadows, and 18 Herring Gulls at Bath. The snow is nearly gone. Train to Augusta in the afternoon. Saw 3 Crows at Richmond.

Sunday, Dec. 31. Very clear and warm. Took train in the afternoon from Augusta to Fairfield. Saw 87 Crows along the Kennebec River between Augusta and Waterville, nearly all in one flock.

EVERETT E. JOHNSON, Hebron.

In reply to your call for a Christmas week bird census, I have been very busy moving lately and have had no time to go out look-

ing for birds. Dec. 27th, at West Minot, I saw 6 English Sparrows and 4 domestic Doves. Dec. 30th, I saw a pair of English Sparrows here on my place in Helbron and heard 1 Blue Jay and flushed 1 Canada Ruffed Grouse. Tree Sparrows were seen here Jan. 5. A Snowy Owl was shot here from a telegraph pole by one of my neighbors.

CAPT. HERBERT L. SPINNEY, Seguin Light.

In compliance with your request that a record of birds seen from Dec. 24th to the 31st be kept, I submit to you the following report as kept by myself:

Dec. 24th, 1905, Black Guillemot, 1; Cormorants (*P. carbo*), 4; American Eider Duck, about 30; Crow, 1; American Herring Gull, 20. Dec. 25th, Snowy Owl, 1; Herring Gull, 4. Dec. 26th, Herring Gull, 3. Dec. 27th, Cormorant (*P. carbo*), 1; Shrike, 1, which I took to be the Northern; Herring Gull, 12. Dec. 28th, American Eider Duck, about 30; Loon (*G. imber*), 1; Herring Gull, 6. Dec. 29th, the day stormy with a stiff southeast wind, accompanied with rain and fog. The fog signal being in operation I did not see a bird. Dec. 30th, nothing but a few Herring Gulls were seen, perhaps half a dozen. Dec. 31st, two Scoter Ducks, which I took to be *O. Americana*, but as they were a long distance away was not sure.

CAPT. MARK YOUNG, Matinicus.

I send a list of birds seen at my station Christmas week: Dec. 24th. Fifty Herring Gulls seen on Two Bush island to-day. Many little birds in the bay to-day called Pewee Gulls by the baymen. They are never seen here in summer. Many little birds seen in the bay to-day called Ice Birds by the baymen. Dec. 25th. Many little birds seen on No Man's land to-day called Rock Birds by the baymen. They are never seen here in the summer. Dec. 26th. Large numbers of old Sea Ducks and Drakes were seen sitting on the southernmost shoals of my station to-day. Old Squaws are seen around all the neighboring islands to-day. Dec. 27th. A few Loons and Noddies were seen to the eastward of Matinicus to-day, some-

thing rare at this time of the year. Dec. 28th. Lots of Black Ducks sitting on No Man's land to-day, and on neighboring islands to-day.

ORA W. KNIGHT, Bangor.

I went out the afternoons of the 26th and 27th and did not see a solitary native species, though within the city limits I saw thousands of English Sparrows and hundreds of Doves. I covered likely territory each time, but in vain. A friend reported seeing two Crows at Bucksport on Christmas day. The birds are common in certain localities here all the winter, and if I had been able to give a whole day to this census I could have visited a locality where I could have most certainly added many species to my list seen.

DANA SWEET, Phillips.

Dec. 24th, American Crossbill, American Goldfinch, Black-capped Chickadee. Dec. 27th, Blue Jay, American Crossbill, Black-capped Chickadee. Dec. 28th, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Goldfinch, Northern Shrike, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee. Dec. 29th, American Goldfinch, Snow Bunting. Dec. 30th, Saw-whet Owl, Blue Jay, American Crossbill, American Goldfinch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee. Dec. 31st, American Crossbill, American Goldfinch, Snow Bunting, Black-capped Chickadee.

Dec. 24th. While on my way to church, I saw Crossbills, Goldfinches and Chickadees, while passing through evergreen woods. I saw the same species there the following Sunday.

Dec. 29th. I walked two miles and saw a flock of 10 Snow Buntings, a flock of about 10 Goldfinches, and another flock of Snow Buntings, there being only 4 in the last flock.

Dec. 30th. I went three miles and found Jays, Goldfinches and Crossbills common.

Dec. 25th and Dec. 26th. I was at work cutting and hacking ice and recorded no species. The rest of the week I was cutting wood near a swamp in the woods and recorded the species that

came my way. Several times I saw what I believed to be Redpolls, but couldn't satisfactorily identify them.

Dec. 30th. I heard a flock of Chickadees and a Red-breasted Nuthatch singing all at once. I went to them, hoping to find a Creeper or Kinglet in the flock, but instead found a Saw-whet Owl in the midst of the group. The Nuthatch was within five inches of the Owl's head, singing lustily, while on the other side of the Owl, about a foot away, was a Chickadee.

Crossbills, Goldfinches and Blue Jays are plentiful, while Golden-Crowned Kinglets and Creepers are not so common as usual.

MRS. SARAH RIDEOUT ABBOTT, Saco.

Dec. 25th, 8 to 10 A. M.: Blue Jays, 3; Crows, 14; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Tree Sparrows, 11; numerous Herring and Black-backed Gulls; Loons, 3; many Grebes, Old Squaw and Sheldrake Ducks. 2.30 to 4.30 P. M.: Tree Sparrows, 15; Myrtle Warblers, 5; Chickadees, 3; Blue Jays, 2; Crows, 11; Ducks, Grebes, Loons and Gulls. Dec. 26th, 2.30 to 4.15 P. M.: Large flock of Tree Sparrows; Myrtle Warblers, 3; Robin seen, 1 (another called at short distance); Chickadees, 5; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Shore Larks, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 1; many Crows. Counted 53 Ducks over one feeding shallow. Dec. 27th, 8.15 to 11 A. M.: Tree Sparrows, 9; Blue Jays, 3; Chickadees, 5; Robins, 2. 3 to 4.15 P. M.: Northern Shrike, 1; Crows, 7; counted 60 Gulls; Chickadee, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 1. Dec. 28th, 8.15 to 11.45 A. M.: Robins, 2; Myrtle Warblers, 5; Tree Sparrows, 12; counted Loons, 3; Ducks, 73; many Gulls and Crows; Shore Lark, 1; flock of Crossbills, counted 5. Dec. 29th, 4 to 5 P. M.: Robin seen, 1 (heard another across the pond); Tree Sparrows, 3; Chickadee, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 1; Blue Jay, 1; many Crows. Dec. 30th, 2.15 to 4 P. M.: Robins, 2; Myrtle Warblers, 5; Chickadees, 3; Blue Jays, 5; Ducks in river, 3 (no Ducks on bay); small Auk, 1. Dec. 31st, 8 to 9.15 A. M.: Tree Sparrows, 3; Chickadee, 1; Blue Jays, 2; Crows, 11; Snowy Owl, 1.

SARA C. EASTMAN, Portland.

On December 26th, I took a trip into the country and walked some distance along a road bordered by fields, in the hope of seeing a flock of Snow Buntings, but the only bird that I saw was a solitary Crow that had alighted on a patch of plowed ground, and was eating something so greedily that I concluded that either he was famished or had found a morsel so choice that it must be eaten quickly lest some one of his tribe should join him at his feast.

On December 27th, in company with a friend, I went out to Delano Park. Here I was more fortunate, for I found half a dozen Chickadees, dearest to me of all winter birds, and six or eight Myrtle Warblers, without doubt the same seen there by Mr. Brownson. They were in fine plumage and flitted from bush to bush and from tree to tree in the liveliest way, as if they were rejoicing in the beautiful winter sunshine.

I made an expedition on the 28th of December, and another on the 30th, but both were fruitless.

On the last day of the year I betook myself to a bit of woods. As soon as I had reached my destination, I was greeted by a voice that is very familiar to me, and turning quickly saw a Blue Jay flying among the trees.

Having found a sunny spot which was free from snow, I began my watch. For nearly two hours I waited without seeing a sign of bird life, then a Chickadee flew into a tree near by; he was followed by another, and then, to my surprise and delight, I saw on the trunk of the same tree a Red-breasted Nuthatch.

HOWARD R. HUSTON, Castine.

Monday, 9.00 to 12.00 A. M. Wind northeast, clear. Crow, 3; Gull, 25; Chickadee, 11; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 17; Goldfinch, 25. Tuesday, 4.00 to 5.00 P. M. Wind northeast, clear. Crow, 7; Gull, 19; Chickadee, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 5; English Sparrow, 11. Wednesday, 8.00 to 9.00 A. M. Wind northeast, clear. Crow, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 6; Gull, 25; Chickadee, 2. Thursday, 8.00 to 9.00 A.

M. Wind northwest, clear. Crow, 7; Goldfinch, 9; Gull, 25; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3; Chickadee, 1. Friday, 8.00 to 9.00 A. M. Wind southeast, cloudy. Crow, 3; Gull, 11; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 6; English Sparrow, 3. Total, 7 species; 232 individuals.

JAS. CARROLL MEAD, No. Bridgton.

I was unable to make any bird observations Christmas week, but it so happened that I was working on my wood lot during the week preceding, and I will submit the list of birds I noted during that time:

Dec. 18th, two Blue Jays, a small flock of Chickadees, one Ruffed Grouse. Dec. 19th, as I was walking into the woods before it was fairly light, an Acadian Owl lighted on a limb but a few feet above my head and courtesied to me in a laughable manner. Scared two Ruffed Grouse from a clump of poplars. Saw four or five Tree Sparrows gathering seeds from weed stalks by the roadside. Dec. 20th, saw one Downy Woodpecker and saw a flock of birds pass over that I thought to be Redpolls. Dec. 21st, saw a few Golden-crowned Kinglets in company with Chickadees in a small swamp. Heard a Pileated Woodpecker on the hill to the westward.

W. H. Dow, Portland.

At Dunstan, Dec. 24th, I saw Blue Jays. There were at least two, and probably more, judging from their calls.

The Whooping Swan.

The JOURNAL presents as a frontispiece to this issue a picture of the mounted specimen of Whooping Swan (*Olor cygnus*) now in the collection of Clarence H. Clark, of Lubec. The bird is an accidental visitor from Europe and was shot Sept. 10, 1903, in Washington County. The capture and subsequent purchase of the bird were described by Mr. Clark on page 23 of volume VII, JOURNAL OF THE

MAINE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY. Mr. Clark remarks that the bird is easily distinguished by the yellow covering of the lores, which extends over the larger portion of the upper mandible, while its near relative *Columbianus* has the yellow only on the lores, and *Buccinator* has no yellow.

The Black Vulture in Maine.

By ORA W. KNIGHT, Bangor, Maine.

Under Mr. Clark's notes (JOUR. ME. ORN. SOC., March, 1905, p. 23) he states, referring to the Black Vulture, "Although Knight in his *Birds of Maine* reports for Washington County, 'not uncommon some seasons,' I do not know of a record or report of this occurrence as far east for a period of twenty years." The record to which he takes exceptions is given (*List of Birds of Maine*, p. 58) under Black Vulture as follows: Washington, "not uncommon some seasons" (Boardman), and it is Mr. Boardman, not myself, as asserted by Mr. Clark, who makes this report and is so credited with it in the List. I should not, however, bother with a quibble over mere words, when the exact facts could be ascertained by any person who referred to the List, if it did not seem to question the accuracy of Mr. Boardman's statements. I wish, moreover, to show that there has been a well authenticated record of the Black Vulture being taken in Washington County at Calais, not only within a period of twenty years but as recently as November, 1892. The reference to this record, as cited in *Birds of Maine*, p. 58, is "Calais" (Cf. Brewster (it should be Dutcher), *Auk*, Vol. 10, p. 82), and the record as reproduced from the *Auk* is as follows: "Under date of November 3, Mr. Geo. A. Boardman writes me as follows: 'Our local taxidermist (Calais, Maine) received a Black Vulture (*Catharista atrata*), which was killed here. This makes the sixth I have known to be taken in this vicinity, while only one specimen of the Turkey Buzzard (*Calhartes aura*) has been secured in this locality. The

latter I consider much the more northern bird.' '(Signed) William Dutcher, New York City.

At the time we were working on "List of Birds of Maine" Mr. Boardman wrote that others had been seen but not taken, which would doubtless give him the right under the existing conditions to say "not uncommon some seasons," and I for one believe that his remarks regarding the Black Vulture in Maine were correct.

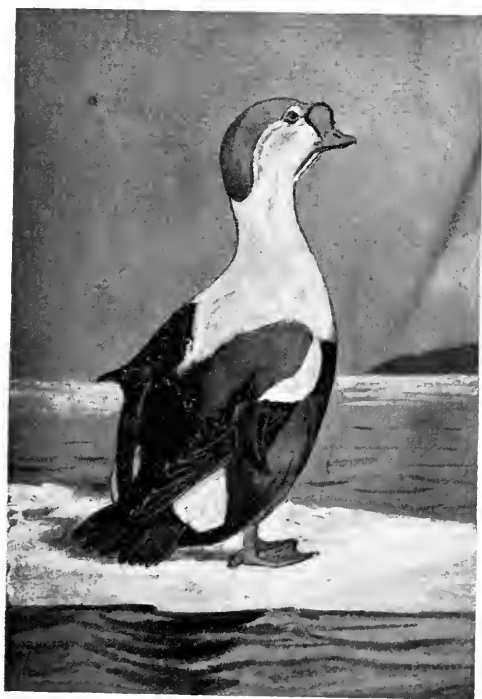
It will be noted in Mr. Boardman's letter to Mr. Dutcher, which is quoted, he writes: "Only one specimen of the Turkey Buzzard has been secured in this locality." This supports my own evidence in a recent discussion regarding the Turkey Buzzard, and I think finally settles the matter.

Plumage of the King Eider Drake.

Somateria spectabilis (Linn.).

In the *Auk* for January, 1900 (Vol. XVII, p. 16) there was published an article entitled, "The Perfected Plumage of the King Eider." The point of particular interest was the development of a part of the outer web of the two outermost tertials in a manner to form a tuft on each side over the decurved (in the folded wing) inner secondaries.

This modification of the tertials seems to be a constant feature of the males (though rarely well developed in birds taken on this coast), and as it seems to have received little attention from writers, a photograph of the specimen described in the *Auk*, retouched by Mr. Walter Rich, is shown in a plate in this number of the JOURNAL.



PLUMAGE OF THE KING EIDER DRAKE, SHOW-
ING TUFT OF FEATHERS ON TERTIALS.

The Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society

A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study and Protection of Birds

Vol. VIII

Published March 1, 1906

No. 1

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: 50 cents a year; 15 cents a copy

OFFICERS OF THE MAINE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Pres., PROF. LESLIE A. LEE, Brunswick
Vice-Pres., DR. H. H. BROCK, Portland
Sec.-Treas., J. MERTON SWAIN, Skowhegan
Councillors, CAPT. H. L. SPINNEY, Seguin
ORA W. KNIGHT, Bangor

W. H. BROWNSON, Portland,
Editor
FRANK T. NOBLE, Augusta,
Associate Editor

The MAINE JOURNAL enters upon its 8th volume with this issue, and the editor is pleased to announce that all outstanding bills have been paid through the generous response of members and subscribers to the call made at the last annual meeting of the society.

In order to meet the expenses of publication for the coming year it will be necessary for everybody to send in his cash promptly as called for. Many new members have been secured and more should be added to the rolls this spring. Note the circulars enclosed in this number and follow the suggestions contained therein.

Chas. K. Reed, Worcester, Mass., sends the JOURNAL a copy of Part II of his new Bird Guide. This contains all the land birds east of the Rocky mountains, each bird being pictured in colors. Bound in sock cloth for 50 cents, or in flexible leather for 75 cents.

On account of the large amount of matter sent in for this issue many notes have been crowded out, and they will appear in the next number, unless they are out of date before that time.

During the approaching spring migration our members should keep full notes of their observations and give the JOURNAL the benefit of them for the June number.

Bird Notes.

Notes and observations upon bird life within our State are earnestly desired from all our readers for publication in this column, and should be sent to the Associate Editor, Frank T. Noble, Augusta, Maine.

We note with much satisfaction the increasing frequency with which the members of our society report to this JOURNAL their ornithological observations. This is an important part of our duties, one to another, and should be shared in by all interested in bird life. The JOURNAL's columns are always open to contributors of items of general interest relating to Maine birds, and we trust our members will, through this medium, disseminate such knowledge as they personally possess.

THE HAWK OWL AT NORTH JAY. — J. Merton Swain, in noting the occurrence of this comparatively uncommon bird in central Maine, writes: "Nov. 29, 1905. While driving from Milton to North Jay to-day (it was raining and the trees were covered with sleet), I saw a large Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula caparoch*) perched upon an elm tree beside the road, evidently asleep. Some two hours after, while passing on the train, I saw his Owlship perched on a 'stub' just across the road from the tree in which I first saw him."

AN ALBINO RUFFED GROUSE. — A partial albino Canadian Ruffed Grouse was shot by Roswell Crane, at Whiting, Washington County, January 23d. It was examined by C. H. Clark, of Lubec, who describes it as being about three-quarters white, the forehead, throat, upper breast, belly, coverts and tarsus nearly pure white; the two middle primaries pure white, the rest of primaries having white inner webs, with the outer webs tinted with rufous, the ruffs mostly fuscous, bordered with white; topknot or plume white and rufous mixed; a rufous band across the middle of the white breast, upper parts mixed white and rufous.

NOTE.—The JOURNAL particularly desires detailed reports of all albino or partial albino birds of any species observed or taken within the borders of our State. Will our readers bear this continually in mind, and thus give a general publicity to such occurrences.

ED.

CROWS.—Did the Crows leave the interior of the State earlier than usual last fall? We quote from two of our observers, but would like to hear from others, especially if the large flock mentioned came to their notice.

“The Crows left the interior of the State unusually early this fall. They became rather scarce the latter part of September, and very few were seen in October except along the coast, where they seemed as common as usual, but in the interior I saw very few through September and October. Being on the move six days per week, as I was, I had good opportunity to look for them, and their early departure was very noticeable. My trips took me extensively into Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec and Somerset counties in the interior of the State. Have others noted this early scarcity and what can be the reason for it?”

J. MERTON SWAIN.

“December 3d was rainy and rather warmer than usual for this time of year. I observed a large flock of Crows in a field in front of my home in Farmingdale. I should estimate that there were at least 5,000 of them in all, for they completely covered a strip of land one-eighth of a mile long by three rods wide.”

FRANK SMITH.

MYRTLE WARBLERS' THIRD WINTER AT CAPE ELIZABETH.

—The presence of Myrtle Warblers at Cape Elizabeth during the winters of 1903-04 and 1904-5 has been previously reported in the JOURNAL by me. They were present in the same locality all through the winter of 1905-6, the record in detail being as follows: December 25, thirteen Myrtle Warblers seen at Delano Park and Pond Cove. January 7, 1906, nine Myrtle Warblers seen in the same place, several noted feeding on bayberries. January 28, 1906, eight Myrtle Warblers seen, in company with twenty or twenty-five Purple Finches. February 4, 1906, several Myrtle Warblers seen, but not counted, wind being high and birds largely concealed in evergreen woods. February 25, 1906, half a dozen or more Myrtle Warblers observed in the same locality, in company with about forty Purple Finches and fifty Cedar Waxwings. The plumage of

the Myrtle Warblers which have spent the past winter in this section was more brilliant than the fall plumage of the great body of these birds on their way south. It is not so brown, and large patches of yellow show on the sides, in some cases on the crown, as well as on the rump. On December 24, 1905, two Myrtle Warblers were seen by me at Old Orchard and Mrs. Sarah Rideout Abbott reports Myrtle Warblers plentiful at Saco during Christmas week.

W. H. BROWNSON.

WINTER NOTES FROM WASHINGTON COUNTY.—One of our most enthusiastic bird students and reliable observers is Clarence H. Clark, of Lubec, in Washington County. He is one of those thoroughly alive investigators who appears to be in touch with the birds from January to December. His records, carefully kept, are invaluable as data, and we take pleasure in reproducing in full one of Feb. 11th in this very unusual winter. He writes :

"I have been sending you a few copies of my records lately, to show you how plentiful the birds are in this vicinity this winter. I enclose copy of record for Feb. 11th.

"Wind north; clear and bright. The recently formed snow crust made the walking look very tempting, and at noon I started for the pumping station, about two miles out of town. On reaching the edge of the woods I found two White-winged Crossbills feeding and singing, and while watching them at close range a flock of fourteen of the same species lit near them. Only two of this flock were strongly marked males; the rest were females and young birds. I proceeded on my walk for a half mile and came upon ten of this species in the top of a tree, and while wondering if these could be part of the flocks previously seen I noticed that the cheeping and singing was stronger than it was possible for these few birds to make. I passed through some low bushes and came to a clearing, and such a sight for mid-winter! Birds were everywhere. Every tree, bush, fence and the ground seemed to be alive with them. My first impulse was to count. I got to one hundred and gave it up. They were too numerous and active to count. I next began

to identify them, and being near to them I had an excellent opportunity. They proved to be mostly White-winged Crossbills, with about a dozen Purple Finches and a score of Tree Sparrows. Although the song of the Crossbill somewhat resembles that of the Goldfinch, I was sure I heard the genuine, and on carefully looking over the whole flock I found two of the *Astragalinus tristis*. I had just discovered these two when a flock of thirty of this same species lit in a tree close by me, and these were soon followed by several smaller flocks of ten or twelve, some Crossbills and others Purple Finches and Goldfinches, until the number was soon augmented to over two hundred, and such singing I have never heard equalled in the summer. The sun was out warm and bright, and nearly every bird welcomed it with song or call. After about an hour with this flock I started to return, and had gone but a short distance when I ran into a flock of Hudsonian Chickadees (ten or twelve), and these, too, were exercising their voices, and mingled with the "dee, dee, dees" and "Chick-a-dee dees" was a sweet little song of three or four notes and new to me, but I was not long in doubt as to what it was, for soon a Hudsonian came out on a limb not over three feet from my face and sang it right at me. It was, as children term it, "just too cute." All along my route were scattered Goldfinches and White-winged Crossbills. About two hundred Crows were finding something good in an open field, and one hundred and fifty Old Squaws and numerous Herring Gulls were feeding along the shore."

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.—The Northern Shrike or Butcher Bird (*Lanius borealis*) has been much in evidence during the present winter. He appears now to be a not uncommon visitor in many of the city streets, where he finds an ample supply of food among the large flocks of English Sparrows which inhabit such places in cold weather. While accounts of its rapacious and cruel work among our smaller birds are quite common, it remains for one of our keen bird students, Miss Sara Chandler Eastman, of Portland, to note the efforts of one of these hawk-like birds to get at a pet canary, which was hanging in a cage inside a window in a suburb of that city. The bird made several attempts, and its failure, on account of the intervening glass, was something it apparently could not understand.

Prof. A. L. Lane, one of the society's ex-officers, reports the appearance at Goodwill Farm of an unusually large flock of Snowflakes on November 19th last. He estimates the number in the

flock at fully five thousand birds. They were feeding about in stubble in some open fields, and when taking wing, he says, "they certainly justified their name by the appearance they presented of a snow storm of huge flakes."

Miss Mabel P. Ridley, of the State Normal School at Castine, is an ardent bird student and has a large class in ornithology. She keeps a careful record of occurrences of species in that section. One of her class, Hiram Blake, contributes an interesting paper on experiments made with cod's livers as a means of attracting the Herring Gulls in the harbor, so their manner of feeding and markings could be closely observed by the class. He relates that the first Gull, which was an old bird, to spy the food supply did not attempt to eat any at first, but flew away and informed his companions of the discovery, bringing back with him a number, and that soon the flock had increased to thirty or more.

From Damariscotta we have additional evidence of the late tarrying of birds ordinarily seeking warmer climes at a much earlier date. Mr. Fred M. David writes the JOURNAL that on December 27th he noted a Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) and on January 23rd he saw a flock of eight Robins about a mile from the town. The following day, January 24th, a flock of nine Robins (possibly the same previously seen) flew past his place of business and settled in some trees in the centre of the town. A lone Bald Eagle has also remained about Damariscotta all winter. On February 16th he observed the unusual sight of a Butcher Bird chasing a yellow butterfly, and, capturing him, devouring with much apparent relish such an unusual variety to his winter bill of fare.

An interesting note from Prof. O. W. Knight, of Bangor, is as follows: "A small flock of American Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) have been around the dam at Bangor all winter. There seemed to be three full-plumaged adults and four dark-colored immature birds. They swept about the open water in short circles, at the upper radius of which they always came just over the end of the sluice. They repeatedly dropped into the water and caught tomcods, rising just in time to avoid being swept under the ice by the swift current. Some fish were eaten in the water, but the larger ones they flew with to the ice near by where they could eat at leisure.

From Pittsfield, Mr. H. H. Johnson reports a Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) seen upon the river in that town as late as December 27th, a very exceptional record in this latitude.



UNUSUAL PHOTOGRAPH OF A SONG SPARROW MADE BY CHAS. H. TOLMAN, PORTLAND.

The bird was accustomed to sing every morning on the top of a fir bush some five feet high. Mr. Tolman, by placing his camera in position, and standing some fifty feet distant, was able to catch the bird in the very midst of his most rollicking melody. The picture is so full of life that it was deemed worthy of reproduction.

The Journal

of the

Maine Ornithological Society

Published by the Society on the first of March, June, September and December

Vol. VIII

JUNE, 1906

No. 2

Inhabitants of Alders and Evergreens.

By DANA W. SWEET, Phillips, Maine.

There are some species of birds that may be easily identified by aid of their song when they are in their summer home, but where they occur only as migrants they are likely to be overlooked unless the observer knows where to search for them and is familiar with their call notes. There are others that escape notice on account of their similarity in song or plumage to other birds, or because they inhabit places where the observer doesn't think of looking for them. I will attempt to briefly describe some of the habits and notes of several interesting species that may be found in alder and evergreen growths.

During the winter alders are a favorite resort for Redpolls, which visit them and feed upon the seeds. The amateur may very easily mistake these birds for Goldfinches. They are just about the same size, and, like the Goldfinches, they utter squeaky notes when feeding and when flying. They usually fly very high in the air and are most in evidence during extremely cold weather. Besides alder seeds, they feed upon yellow birch and hemlock seeds in winter, and when the snow is going off their favorite food seems to be the seeds of pigweed and evening primrose.

Water thrushes, during the breeding season, inhabit alder bogs near water, and it is probable that they are to be found in such places during the migrations.

During the spring migration and the breeding season the Tennessee Warbler should be sought for in bogs of alder, hackmatack, or young, partly dead, scraggly spruces. The spring migration is at its height during the last week in May. This Warbler is a small gray bird that looks like a Warbling Vireo on a small scale. Its song is more prolonged, more complicated, and more sibilant than that of the Nashville Warbler, and will never be mistaken for it if one has the Nashville's song well fixed in mind.

The Alder Flycatcher arrives May 25th. It is abundant in my locality, but I never see it anywhere except in alders. It is a shy bird and a persistent singer. It looks like a Least Flycatcher, and its song, which is very difficult to describe, might be mistaken by a careless listener for the song of the Phoebe.

It is among the alders that I look for the Wilson Warbler, Philadelphia Vireo, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet during the fall migration.

Last September I saw a Philadelphia Vireo and a Nashville Warbler near together in a small clump of alder bushes, where I had a good chance to compare them. They seemed to be just about the same size and looked very much alike. The upper parts were olive green, the rump being brighter than the rest of the upper parts. The under parts were yellow. They could be easily distinguished from each other in two ways, by the mark about the eye, and by the feeding habits. The Nashville Warbler had an eye-ring and was very active. The Philadelphia Vireo had a line above the eye, and was similar in its movements to the other species of Vireos.

In spring the Ruby-crowned Kinglet is found in swamps of cedar or fir, but during the fall migration it is found in more open places, and shows a decided preference for alders. After the leaves of most trees have fallen, it is often seen or heard in the dense bushy tops of young apple trees whose leaves are yet green. Its call note is not easy to distinguish from that of the Winter Wren. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet may be easily recognized by its habit of flitting its wings, and by its almost perpetual motion, for it is never still for but a moment at a time.

The Winter Wren is a ground bird and an inhabitant of ever-

green swamps. I never see it elsewhere except during the fall migration, when it is found in thick tangled growths of bushes, weeds and vines, also about brush fences by the roadside, and in bushes and weeds about culverts. The call note is a grating "chip."

The Blackburnian Warbler during the spring migration is often found among the blossoms of the rock maple, associating with other species of Warblers, but in the summer it inhabits the dense tops of trees in growths of spruce and fir. It has quite a variety of songs. One that is most often heard is doubtless often mistaken for the song of the Black and White Warbler.

The Black-throated Blue Warbler is a bird of the deep woods. It prefers a mixture of deciduous and evergreen trees on damp ground, with more or less young growth. It is inclined to be solitary, although it sometimes associates with other species of Warblers during the migrations.

The summer home of the Olive-backed Thrush is evergreen woods, but it is also found in growths of mixed deciduous and evergreen trees. It is distinguished from the Veery by the black markings on its breast, and from the Hermit Thrush by the buff on its throat and the uniform color of the upper parts. The Hermit Thrush usually reveals its identity by slowly pumping its tail. The call note of the Olive-backed Thrush is a fine, metallic "pit," like the sound made by lifting a high-pitched harmonica reed with a knife blade. Another note is a short, low whistle, not so prolonged nor so loud as that of the Hermit Thrush. The song may be compared to the first part of the Hermit Thrush's song in regard to length of utterance, but it sounds more like the Veery's song. It is not clear like the Hermit's song, but seems to peal forth in tremulous waves, and in its surpassing sweetness outrivals any other bird's song that I have ever heard. Olive-backed Thrushes like to feed in dense growths of tall birch bushes. Some of them may be seen up among the leafy branches, feeding after the manner of the Vireo and Flycatcher, while others search for food among the dead leaves on the ground.

The Bay-breasted Warbler freely associates with other species of Warblers during the migrations, but during the spring migration

it is also found in evergreen swamps such as it inhabits during the breeding season. The song consists of three notes. The following is the best representation that I can give of it: "Sisser, sisser, see." It is very weak and may easily escape notice even when heard near by.

The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher arrives May 25th. The typical home of this bird is an almost impenetrable dense swamp of cedars with a mixture of firs. On the ground is standing water; fallen trees, underbrush and tangled growths block the way. From the gloomy depths of this uninviting place comes a weak note that sounds like a click, or perhaps it may suggest to you a tiny hiccough or sneeze. When heard near at hand, this note sounds very much like, and sometimes is indistinguishable from, the song of the Least Flycatcher. There is no difficulty, however, in distinguishing the two species by their songs, for there is always a long pause after each song of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. The two species have in common one note, which suggests the rattling of a loose harmonica reed. Besides these two notes, the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher has another, a low, short whistle. This species is quite shy, and it is not easy to get within good range of it. When observed at a little distance away it looks exactly like a Least Flycatcher, but when viewed close at hand it will be seen that the under parts are dusky yellow and that there is no eye-ring.

White-winged Crossbills feed upon the seeds of hemlock and spruce. A flock of these birds in a treetop look like Pine Grosbeaks, but they may be distinguished from them by their wings, which are jet black, with two very conspicuous white wing-bars. Their notes also will aid in identifying them. They utter chirping notes and sometimes a chorus of whistles. They also make squeaking notes like Redpolls and Goldfinches.

My earliest and latest date for the Hudsonian Chickadee is Nov. 1, 1904, and May 7, 1905. This species may be looked for among evergreen trees, and has the same feeding habits and general appearance as the Chickadee. The crown-cap is brownish-gray instead of black, there is no white on the upper parts, and the sides

are red-brown instead of buff. The song is "Chick-a-dee-dee-dee," but is different in tone from the song of the Black-capped species, it being a nasal tenor. Some of its notes are entirely different from those of the Chickadee, one of them being a "chip" in the same tone as the song. Perhaps some idea of the bird's appearance may be gained by making a comparison between the Chickadees and Nuthatches. With regard to color of plumage and tone of voice, the Hudsonian Chickadee may be said to have the same relation to the Chickadee that the Red-breasted Nuthatch has to the White-breasted Nuthatch.

Contributions to the Life History of the Black-throated Blue Warbler.

Dendroica caerulescens (Gmel.).

By ORA W. KNIGHT, Bangor, Me.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION—MIGRATION RANGE.—Eastern North America, northward to Labrador; in winter ranging from Key West, Florida, Cuba and Haiti, in which places it is common southward to Central America (one specimen from Coban, Guatemala) and South America (one specimen only from Las Nubes, Colombia).

BREEDING RANGE.—Northern Maine and Minnesota northward to Labrador, and south in the mountains to Pennsylvania.

WINTER RANGE.—From Key West to Cuba, Haiti and adjacent territory southward to Central America, only rarely reaching the southern limit given; once recorded as wintering near Boston, which seems very astonishing.

In the spring migration this species enters southern Maine about May 15th, and individuals may be seen in the central portions of the State by May 20th, while the northern sections are reached a few days later. The species is quite common in migrations, most

often being found in rather open, mixed growth, flitting from tree to tree, catching various insects on the wing in imitation of a Fly-catcher.

By early June most of the individuals have passed beyond southern Maine, while in the portions of the northern and western counties within Canadian faunal limits nest building has commenced. At this season the song of the male may be heard as it is uttered from the branches of some rather low tree, and it consists of a rather sweet succession of notes sounding like "pe-wee-wee-se-zewee," or sometimes shortened into "swee-swee-swee."

The nest is almost invariably placed in a low evergreen tree in rather thick woods or heavy undergrowth. Four eggs taken at Lincoln, June 10, 1896, were in a nest composed of bark and fine sedges, lined with fine vegetable fibres. It was placed in a low fir tree about three inches from the ground in dense underbrush. The exterior diameter of the nest is 4 inches and the interior diameter $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The exterior depth is $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches and the interior depth 1 inch. The eggs measure .65 x .50, .61 x .50, .60 x .51 and .65 x .50 inches. The eggs are usually four in number, sometimes five, and quite often only three. The ground color is grayish white, somewhat coarsely spotted as well as finely dotted with olive-brown, lilac and lavender. The markings are often most numerous at the larger end, but are usually well scattered over the entire surface.

When the vicinity of a nest containing eggs or young is approached the parents manifest some anxiety, flitting from bush to bush and uttering an alarm note much like that of the Chipping Sparrow. Penobscot, Piscataquis, Aroostook, Washington, Oxford and the northern part of Somerset counties are the chief breeding grounds of the species within Maine, and in some sections it may *locally* be called common, though more often rather rare as a summer resident.

In August the southern migration begins and it is highly probable that all have passed out of the State by the middle of September at the very latest. Much, however, still remains to be known about the habits of these birds.

The food consists largely of insects, much of which is caught on the wing, while more or less is gleaned while the birds are flitting about among the foliage.

Migration Reports, 1905.

The migration reports given below were made by the following members at their respective stations:

Louis E. Legge, Portland, Cumberland County; Sara C. Eastman, Portland, Cumberland County; Everett E. Johnson, East Hebron, Oxford County; Mabel P. Ridley, Castine, Hancock County; Mr. and Mrs. Guy H. Briggs, Livermore, Androscoggin County; Dana W. Sweet, Avon, Franklin County; J. M. Swain, Skowhegan, Somerset County; J. C. Morin, Fort Kent, Aroostook County.

The year was very favorable for observing bird migration, but there is a notable lack of uniformity in the dates, which is probably due to peculiar weather conditions.

The object of the migration reports is to learn, as nearly as possible, when the different species of migrating birds arrive, when on their way northward to their summer home, and on their way southward to their winter home. All members interested in this work are earnestly invited to contribute lists. Blanks are furnished free.

D. W. SWEET,

Phillips, Me.

	PORTLAND.	HEBRON.	CASTINE.	LIVERMORE.	AVON.	SK'WH'G'N.	FT. KENT.
Pied-billed Grebe,							
Loon,	May 30		Oct. 29	Oct. 28			
Red-throated Loon,			May 13	Apr. 23	May 7	June 9	
American Merganser,					Oct. 28		
Red-breasted Merganser,			Feb. 4		Apr. 11		
Black Duck,			" 12		Oct. 28		
American Golden-eye Duck,			Oct. 28	" 20	" 24		
Canada Goose,	March 19	March 19	Feb. 4		Apr. 7		
American Bittern,		May 2	Apr. 1		Apr. 17	Apr. 28	
Blue Heron,	Apr. 9	Aug. 3	May 4		Aug. 19	May 4	
Black-crowned Heron,			" 13		" 3	June 7	
American Coot,							
American Woodcock,					Apr. 18	" 8	
Wilson Snipe,					Oct. 24		

Olive-sided Flycatcher, Pewee,	May 23	" 27	May 23	June 1	May 14	May 15
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher,	" 30		May 16	May 16	" 15	" 23
Alder Flycatcher,					" 26	" 24
Least Flycatcher,	" 7	" Nov. 18	" 29	May 9	" 5	" 3
Horned Lark,					Oct. 18	June 7
Prairie Horned Lark,					March 15	March 12
American Crow,					" 6	March 1
Bobolink,	" 13	May 20	Jan. 23	Jan. 1	March 15	Jan. 22
Cowbird,	Apr. 18	Apr. 27	May 10	May 18	May 12	May 8
Red-winged Blackbird,	March 26	" 27	March 30	March 28	Apr. 12	March 31
Meadowlark,					March 28	" 30
Baltimore Oriole,	May 13		May 10	May 11	Apr. 23	Apr. 13
Rusty Blackbird,					May 11	Apr. 9
Bronzed Grackle, -	Apr. 11	" 2	Apr. 13	Apr. 8	Apr. 5	Apr. 4
Pine Grosbeak,			Feb. 8	Jan. 14	Sept. 27	5
Purple Finch,	" 11	" 24		Jan. 27	Apr. 11	" 5
American Crossbill,				Apr. 26	" 5	" 2
Redpoll,	" 13			Sept. 22	May 14	Apr. 4
American Goldfinch,				Apr. 29	Dec. 11	8
Pine Siskin,					Jan. 1	May 18
Snow Bunting,	" 15	Dec. 9	Oct. 30		March 29	Feb. 13
Vesper Sparrow,	" 15		Apr. 10	" 20	Oct. 28	
Savanna Sparrow,	May 23	May 20	" 23	" 16	Apr. 9	" 1
White-crowned Sparrow,	Apr. 26	Apr. 28	" 27	May 19	May 14	Apr. 25
White-throated Sparrow,				May 11	May 5	" 25
Tree Sparrow,				Apr. 30	Sept. 29	May 14
Chipping Sparrow,	" 22	" 28	Oct. 30	1	Apr. 27	Apr. 27
Field Sparrow,	" 23	May 27	Apr. 26	Apr. 27	March 5	" 8
Slate-colored Junco,	March 19	Apr. 16	March 20	" 28	Oct. 18	" 25
Song Sparrow,	" 19	" 10	" 27	March 27	Apr. 23	" 28
Swamp Sparrow,				Jan. 9	Jan. 4	" 1
Fox Sparrow,	" 19	" 15	Apr. 8	Apr. 2	March 19	March 31
			Oct. 12	Apr. 17	Apr. 28	" 29
					Oct. 28	" 27

Chewink,	May 30	July 22	Apr. 26	May 30	May	18	May 14	May 17	May 17	May 19
Rose-breasted Grosbeak,	June 4				June	3	Apr. 28	Apr. 26	Apr. 26	May 19
Indigo Bunting,							May 15	May 15	May 15	
Scarlet Tanager,							Apr. 27	Apr. 27	Apr. 27	
Purple Martin,							May 11	May 11	May 11	
Cliff Swallow,	May 23		May 24	Apr. 30	May	1	May 27	May 26	May 26	23
Barn Swallow,	" 7		Apr. 26	" 26	"	1	Apr. 27	Apr. 26	Apr. 26	12
Tree Swallow,	Apr. 9		" 20	" 11	Apr.	23	May 11	May 7	May 7	23
Bank Swallow,							May 6	May 24	May 24	14
Cedar Waxwing,	" 11	May 30	May 27	March 26	May	2	Apr. 10	Apr. 7	Apr. 7	1
Northern Shrike,		Nov. 13	Oct. 28	Oct. 26			Oct. 23	Oct. 23	Oct. 23	March 26
Loggerhead Shrike,							Apr. 5	Apr. 5	Apr. 5	8
Red-eyed Vireo,			May 28	May	"	1	May 11	May 20	May 20	
Philadelphia Vireo,					"	15	Sept. 17	" 8	" 8	7
Warbling Vireo,							May 30	" 9	" 9	
Yellow-throated Vireo,							Sept. 5	" 9	" 9	
Blue-headed Vireo,	May 30						Apr. 29	" 4	" 4	
Black and White Warbler,	" 4		May 5	" 6	"	7	May 30	" 4	" 4	
Nashville Warbler,	" 14			" 6	"	7	May 7	" 9	" 9	
Tennessee Warbler,							" 26	" 19	" 19	21
Northern Parula Warbler,	" 7		" 5	" 20	"	7	" 5	" 10	" 10	22
Cape May Warbler,							" 14	" 18	" 18	24
Yellow Warbler,	" 13			" 9	"	17	" 11	" 9	" 9	14
Black-throated Blue Warbler,	" 4						" 11	" 10	" 10	21
Myrtle Warbler,	Apr. 22	Dec. 27	" 3	Apr. 27	"	2	Apr. 27	" 4	Apr. 27	29
Magnolia Warbler,	May 7	" 21	May 20	May 20	"	7	May 7	" 10	May 21	21
Chestnut-sided Warbler,	" 14	" 15	" 18	" 18			" 6	" 10	June 12	12
Bay-breasted Warbler,	" 30						Sept. 5	" 15	" 15	
Black-poll Warbler,	" 23			" 19	"	7	May 9	" 22	" 22	
Blackburnian Warbler,	" 5	May 21	" 6	" 8	"	7	May 9	" 4	May 21	21
Black-throated Green Warbler,	" 8		" 5	" 8	"	7	" 4	" 5	" 5	21
Pine Warbler,	Apr. 11	Apr. 7	Apr. 28	Apr. 16	Apr.	30	Apr. 28	" 2	" 2	5
Yellow Palm Warbler,	" 16		Oct. 12	Apr. 12	May	30	Apr. 28	Apr. 28	Apr. 28	
Ovenbird,							Sept. 17	May 11	" 11	21
Water-thrush,	May 6	" 20	May 7		May	11	May 5	" 10	" 10	6
Mourning Warbler,		" 21					Apr. 28	" 16	" 16	

Northern Yellow-throat,	May 13	" 21	May 9	May 18	May 7	" 10
Wilson Warbler,	" 20	" 21	" 23	" 22	Aug. 23	" 22
Canadian Warbler,	" 21	" 21	" 23	" 11	May 11	" 28
Redstart,	" 8	" 13	" 5	" 20	" 11	" 10
American Pipit,	" 9	" 13	" 3	" 19	" 13	" 22
Catbird,	" 8	" 13	" 7	" 14	Sept. 21	" 15
Brown Thrasher,	" 8	" 13	Apr. 28	" 14	May 12	" 8
Winter Wren,					Apr. 23	
Short-billed Marsh Wren,					June 3	
Brown Creeper,			Apr. 5		Sept. 28	Apr. 28
White-breasted Nuthatch,		Apr. 19	" 21		Jan. 2	March 18
Red-breasted Nuthatch,		Dec. 31			" 2	" 22
Hudsonian Chickadee,		Nov. 26	Jan. 11	May 7	" 6	Apr. 15
Golden-Crowned Kinglet,	Apr. 26			Apr. 24	Apr. 18	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet,					Sept. 24	
Veery Thrush,	May 14	May 21	May 6	Apr. 18	May 11	May 21
Olive-backed Thrush,	" 23	" 20	Apr. 18	" 4	" 21	" 9
Hermit Thrush,	Apr. 10	Apr. 16	March 21	March 24	Apr. 12	Apr. 19
Robin,	March 19		" 26	" 28	March 24	March 26
Bluebird,			" 26	" 28	" 18	" 28

What Can We Call the Incubation Period?

By ORA W. KNIGHT, Bangor, Me.

While observing the incubation period of birds I have almost invariably noticed that the egg last laid hatches in a far shorter period of time than the egg first laid, and the intermediate laid eggs of the litter also hatch in a proportionately shorter period. For example: A certain Robin laid an egg each day until the full complement of four eggs was deposited. The bird was on the nest the greater part of the day when the first egg was laid, and likewise on each following day, leaving the eggs alone only a few minutes at a time until the eleventh day, when one parent or the other was on the nest almost continuously until the fourteenth day, when the first egg hatched. All four eggs were hatched by the evening of the fifteenth day. Now I should report the incubation period of the Robin as fourteen days, but assuming that the last egg laid was the last to hatch on the evening of the fifteenth day, then the incubation period of this egg, which was laid the morning of the fourth day, was only a little over eleven days.

Again, in the case of the Myrtle Warbler's eggs mentioned on page 74 of the December number of the JOURNAL: The first egg hatched within 295 hours, plus or minus an hour and forty minutes of the time when it was laid. The last of the four eggs in the nest was hatched within eighteen hours afterward. Now in this case an egg was laid the morning of each consecutive day, and consequently the incubation period of the last egg laid was of lesser duration than the first laid egg.

I could give many other instances along this same line, but would like to hear what the experience of others has been.

To me it seems that the incubation period must be taken to include the time elapsing between beginning incubation and the hatching of the first egg laid.

Bluebirds in Maine.

Early in the season all the observers around Portland noticed quite a scarcity of Bluebirds in the places where these birds were common last year. A few weeks later the general verdict was that Bluebirds had increased somewhat in numbers, so that, while not so numerous as last year, no great scarcity is reported. In order to ascertain whether the same conditions prevailed in other parts of the State, the editor asked for the result of the observations of a number of reliable persons, representing widely scattered sections. The reports received show that in most places Bluebirds are as plentiful as they were last year, while in some localities they are reported scarce.

Mr. C. H. Clark, of Lubec, writes that he has just returned from a trip to the Grand Lakes, in the northern part of Washington County, and while there made inquiries about the Bluebirds, and was told by careful observers that in previous years this species has been quite plentiful, but not one has been seen this year.

Mr. J. M. Swain, who commonly visits many parts of central Maine, writes under date of May 7th that he has seen quite a few Bluebirds, but not nearly so many as last year.

Mr. O. W. Knight, of Bangor, writes as follows: "Bluebirds were very common about Augusta during April. I saw very many between Augusta and Lakeview on April 8th. They were common at Houlton between April 27th and May 3d, and I noticed a number along the line of the Bangor & Aroostook between Houlton and Bangor. They are now as common as usual in the middle Penobscot valley."

Mr. Dana W. Sweet, of Phillips, replies that he has not noticed any scarcity of Bluebirds. Possibly they may not be quite as plentiful as usual.

Mr. L. W. Robbins, of Randolph, says: "Not quite so abundant as last year, but not scarce."

Miss Ada C. Troop, of Pittston, writes: "Bluebirds are as abundant as usual near my home."

Miss Marion D. Soule, of Gardiner, writes: "Bluebirds are never abundant near my home, but are as common as usual."

Mr. F. A. Smith, living two miles from Gardiner, writes as follows: "Bluebirds are usually very abundant about my home, but this year I have noticed that they have been very scarce. Last spring there were as many as a dozen pairs nesting in my immediate vicinity, while this year I have seen not more than two or three pairs in all."

Mr. Homer R. Dill, of Gardiner, writes as follows: "Bluebirds are abundant one mile from center of city at my home."

Mr. Wm. L. Powers, of Gardiner, writes as follows: "Bluebirds are abundant as usual this spring with me in my morning walks, three times per week, but they have not appeared near my house. Mrs. Powers has not seen one."

Mr. James Carroll Mead, of North Bridgton, writes on May 20th that Bluebirds are as common in his section as usual.

Mr. A. T. Reynolds, of Gardiner, writes that he has seen fully as many Bluebirds this spring as usual.

The Journal

of the

Maine Ornithological Society

A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study and Protection of Birds

Vol. VIII

Published June 1, 1906

No. 2

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: 50 cents a year; 15 cents a copy

OFFICERS OF THE MAINE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Pres., PROF. LESLIE A. LEE, Brunswick
Vice-Pres., DR. H. H. BROCK, Portland
Sec.-Treas., J. MERTON SWAIN, Skowhegan
Councillors, CAPT. H. L. SPINNEY, Seguin
ORA W. KNIGHT, Bangor

W. H. BROWNSON, Portland,
Editor
FRANK T. NOBLE, Augusta
Associate Editor

It is earnestly hoped that the crusade already begun against the automatic gun will be continued vigorously in the future. The better class of sportsmen are unanimous in condemning the use of this murderous weapon.

The officers of the society will soon have to decide the place of the next annual meeting. There is a general feeling among the members living in southern Maine that the best place is Portland. Portland members desire the JOURNAL to say that they will be glad to welcome the society next fall in case the decision sends the meeting here.

Quite a number of subscribers to the JOURNAL have not paid since 1904, and owe for the past two years. These will find a yellow slip enclosed in this number of the JOURNAL. Special attention is called to this reminder of indebtedness, and it is earnestly requested that they notify the editor at once whether or not they desire the JOURNAL to be sent to them hereafter.

Every member of the Maine Ornithological Society should make a special effort during the next quarter to procure as many new names for membership as possible, or subscriptions to the JOURNAL.

Full particulars of how to apply for membership will be found on the second page of the cover. Applications for membership should be made to Mr. Swain, and subscriptions should be sent to Mr. Brownson.

This society has fully a hundred members in different parts of the State, all of whom are observing birds, more or less. Many notes have been received of last winter's observations, and more should have come in for the present number about the spring migration, but hardly one was received. The JOURNAL would be much more interesting if every member would send in his or her experience during the coming summer. In place of six or eight correspondents we ought to have fifty. If that number of reports should be received, room would be readily found for them in the JOURNAL.

The committee appointed at the last annual meeting to consider financing the publication of Knight's revised edition of the "Birds of Maine" has decided unanimously that it is impracticable to assume this burden. Mr. Knight acquiesces cheerfully in the decision and will now consider publishing, on his own account, a book of double the size first intended, within the next two years. This ought to furnish much additional and valuable information about the birds of this section. There can be no doubt that it will have a large sale, and that it will be thoroughly appreciated by bird students, not only in Maine, but in other States.

The progress of bird study in Maine during the past two years has been great. Everywhere there has been an awakened interest in ornithology, and there are now ten times as many bird students as formerly. Every progressive school in Maine is giving more or less time to this branch of nature work. In Portland, the city has so much appreciated the aid that the Natural History Society is giving the teachers and pupils, that a generous appropriation has been made for the support of the society. Recently the Natural History Society had a field day at Cape Elizabeth. The bird party numbered nineteen enthusiastic observers. The result of their observations in the forenoon was the finding of thirty-eight species of birds.

Bird Notes.

Notes and observations upon bird life within our State are earnestly desired from all our readers for publication in this column, and should be sent to the Associate Editor, Frank T. Noble, Augusta, Maine.

We note with much satisfaction the increasing frequency with which the members of our society report to this JOURNAL their ornithological observations. This is an important part of our duties, one to another, and should be shared in by all interested in bird life. The JOURNAL'S columns are always open to contributors of items of general interest relating to Maine birds, and we trust our members will, through this medium, disseminate such knowledge as they personally possess.

AN ALBINO CHIPPING SPARROW.—On the 19th of June, 1903, at Westbrook, Maine, I noticed a strongly albinistic Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella socialis*). The head, neck, back and breast, were white unmarked, wings and tail normal. I observed the bird at a distance of a few yards, and it could by its pattern, have easily been passed by as a dull male Goldfinch, by a careless or absent-minded observer. As I examined it, it became clear that it was a female, as a male of normal appearance mated with it, and both flew to an adjoining orchard. The following day I saw it twice, in the morning and in the afternoon. During the next ten days I did not see it, though I passed the place four times nearly every day. From June 30th until August 9th, I was not in Westbrook, and heard nothing about the bird. On August 16th, I saw it again when it was moulting and in a very ragged condition, but its white areas were still immaculate. On August 20th, I saw it for the last time, when its appearance was not much changed, though it was farther from its usual haunt than before noted. These observations were made on a public street, in a space about two hundred yards long, though the bird always flew in the same general direction, (toward an orchard north of the street), whenever started. It was usually accompanied by its mate. I always chanced upon it, never seeking it, and while

I could have secured it for a specimen I refrained, hoping to see it return the following spring; though I watched for it, I did not see it.

ARTHUR H. NORTON.

Portland, Me.

SOME DATA UPON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) INTO PORTLAND, ME.—Two instances of the attempted introduction of this Sparrow into Portland are on record, one in 1854 by Col. William Rhodes, and one in 1858 by Dr. Thomas Amory Deblois. The first instance is cited as Rhodes' Forest and Stream, Vol. VIII, p. 165, (original record,) recited by Walter B. Barrows, Bulletin No. 1, Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy, Department of Agriculture, p. 18. The second seems to rest upon Barrows, *ibid.*, p. 18, and is still remembered in Portland.

Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown has recently favored me with some additional data, of much value in its bearing upon the matter. Another importation subsequent to Dr. Deblois, attempt was made by his grandfather, Hon. J. B. Brown, who had the birds sheltered in a large vacant chamber in his house through the winter season and liberated them toward spring.

According to the *Portland Press*, of November 19, 1886, during the early seventies the late Bishop Neely and Mr. Geo. T. Shepley liberated a few on State Street, to wage war upon "a very destructive worm." So far as known, none of these attempts at introduction proved successful. Mr. Brown has given a letter to the archives of the Portland Society of Natural History, of which the following is a copy:

"CITY OF PORTLAND, CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, {
May 31st, 1884. }

MR. N. C. BROWN, ESQ.

The auditor informs me that he made the following payments in the year 1875:

For 50 English Sparrows,	\$50
" 120 Bird Houses,	36

This fixes the date of the importation of the Sparrows into this city.

Very truly yours,

GEO. C. BURGESS,

City Clerk."

This importation, I am assured by Mr. Brown, was successful.

ARTHUR H. NORTON.

Portland, Me.

WASHINGTON COUNTY NOTES.—January 21st. The day was exceedingly warm and pleasant, with wind southwest. I took a walk to my favorite haunt, about two miles out, and found birds in larger quantity and variety than on many a trip in mid-season. My first find was a number of Shore Larks mingled in with a flock of Snow-flakes. This was near the shore on the way out. I saw many of our most common birds on the walk across fields, but on arriving at my destination I found the usual winter stillness broken by a great chorus of songs and calls of a variety of birds, and at once recognized the Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Junco, Tree Sparrow, Black-capped Chickadee, Hudsonian Chickadee and Golden-crowned Kinglet. The Purple Finches and Goldfinches numbered a dozen each. The Purple Finch never sang more beautifully in the spring than it did to-day. And how the brown markings of the Hudsonian Chickadee did shine in the bright sunlight! There were about fifteen of these uncommon visitors, and although in the close vicinity of their cousins, the Black-caps, they did not seem inclined to mingle with them, but kept by themselves. The Black-caps were too active to be counted, but there were at least twenty of these acrobats, and they fairly reveled in the brightness and warmth of the day. Six Juncos kept up a constant "tsip, tsip," and their sleek, plump bodies gave evidence of the absence of snow, which allowed them easy access to an abundance of food. The Golden-crowned Kinglets were constantly flitting about from tree to tree, mingling in friendly fashion with the other species and stopping now and then to exhibit their bright crowns for our admiration. Tree Sparrows appeared fre-

quently during my walk. They are unusually abundant this winter. In the small space of an acre there were at least seventy-five of the several species, and their activity, aided by the screech of a thousand Herring Gulls, the harsh noise of several hundred Crows and the noisy scold of three hundred Old Squaws made it appear a bird day indeed.

March 24th being a pleasant day, with a cool, west wind, I took a stroll along the sea wall in search of Horned Larks. I found a flock of ten and was much interested in watching their movements and habits, but my great surprise was to find feeding near them a White-throated Sparrow. I know that this is listed among the occasional winter residents, but this was my first experience in finding one at this season; it was unquestionably too early for migrants, and this one must have remained in this vicinity all winter. It was very tame and allowed me to come within a few feet of it. I watched it for a half hour, and the next day I again visited the locality and found it in the same place. It was apparently alone, but appeared perfectly contented.

May 19th. I have just received from my taxidermist a Snow Goose which was shot in this town April 30th. From the following measurements I should judge it to be *Chen hyperborea nivalis* of last year's hatching: Length, 31 inches; wing, 17.4 inches; bill, 2.6 inches; tarsus, 3.5 inches. In addition to the description found in all the books I have referred to is a wash of rufous on crown and sides of head. This is the only specimen of which I have any record.

C. H. CLARK.

Lubec, Me.

WINTER NOTES FROM SEGUIN.—There is to be seen, the right kind of weather, a good showing of the American Eider Duck. With this exception all birds are very scarce in my vicinity this winter. There have been a number of Snowy Owls at the island since November 15th. Seven have been taken on the island, four of which I shot myself, and I could have taken the one seen

Christmas, had I wanted it, as it sat on a rock within thirty feet of my door. I went for my camera to photograph it, but before I could get the camera in position, the children came along and made so much noise that the Owl flew away. Of the eleven seasons I have passed on Seguin the past one is the first that hundreds, and I might say thousands, of Shore Larks have not passed over the island, and Snowflakes as well. The past fall I have not seen fifty Larks, and but one on the ground. I think a hundred would cover all the Snowflakes I have seen. November 15th I shot a Woodcock on the island, and on the 27th took a Robin at 4 A. M. off the plate glass of the lantern.

As I have never noticed the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker migrating in numbers during the night until last fall, I will give you the instance as I have it in my note-book. "September 30th, 8 P. M., no wind and very dark, although I can see the Cape Elizabeth lights, twenty-five miles distant, distinctly. There seems to be a large flight of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, as seven are on the glass of lantern, and a number of others can be seen gyrating around the light." Hundreds of Sparrows were on the island, and Rusty Blackbirds were passing over in flocks, and also numbers of Golden-winged Woodpeckers. A number of Peregrine Falcons are flying about the island.

I was very much disappointed not to get to Portland to the meeting, but it was impossible for me to leave, had the weather permitted.

HERBERT L. SPINNEY.

Seguin, Me.

FROM A NEW MEMBER.—You asked me to let you know how I progressed in ornithology. Considering the many rainy days, and the time at my disposal, perhaps I have done very well. The location of our camp here is ideal for birds—two miles in the woods, on the shore of a lake, at the foot of a mountain, the slope not too thickly covered with both hard and soft growth. Just above us is a large clearing with a southern exposure, a veritable bird

paradise. Here a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, for the first time, has sung almost constantly for two weeks, and we hope has nested, as before he has stopped but one day.

Since Jan. 1st, I have *positively* named sixty-two varieties or different birds. Many times during the day the flocks of Warblers flit through the trees. As you know, they are hard to follow. Taking one at a time I have named but a few of the easiest: Myrtle, Black and White, Black-poll, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue (seen only 2), Blackburnian (2), Pine and Magnolia. I have been incredulous in regard to the report of a Scarlet Tanager having been seen here, but last Saturday I saw two, a mile apart, by the roadside, and Sunday morning one here at the camp, and a friend of mine saw two the same day on her lawn. She has been a bird student for some years and has never seen nor heard of one here before. Of course there is no mistaking the Tanager. I had my glass on him a long time, and have seen them in Brookline, Mass.

I had the misfortune recently to step into the nest of my "own" little Hermit Thrush, breaking her first egg. She barely escaped herself. It nearly broke my heart. Needless to say, she abandoned the nest.

I am looking forward to the JOURNAL for June. Have not yet been able to gain a subscriber, but hope to later.

ELIZABETH H. MARKS.

E. Orland, Me., May 28, 1906.

WINTER BIRDS AT PHILLIPS.—Crows have wintered at Phillips. I saw a Robin December 13th, and I have been informed that some were seen in January in an orchard near Phillips Village. December 15th, I saw a male and female Purple Finch feeding in hemlocks with a flock of Goldfinches. February 1st, I saw three, two of them males. February 24th, I heard one in full song, and following it up found a flock of eight, two males and six females. Pine Siskins were with them; one of them sang. I also heard a Goldfinch sing near by. February 1st, I saw a female American Three-toed

Woodpecker, and found a Brown Creeper in full song. February 25th, while going to church, I saw a flock of six Larks and a flock of three Tree Sparrows.

D. W. SWEET.

Phillips, Me.

QUERIES FROM FORT KENT.—Last spring, during the first week of May, I found a very small bird, which I haven't been able to identify. It happened that I didn't have my glass, so was unable to get a good description of it. All I could see was that the upper parts were gray and the under parts white. It was feeding in a willow tree, and the way it flitted from one branch to another reminded me of a Warbler. Its song was wonderful. It began with a faint, high-pitched "tzee," repeated five or six times, followed by a low, clear and intricate warble. The song was unusually loud for so small a bird. A few days later I heard the same song, but was unable to see the bird. Could it be the Ruby-Crowned Kinglet? [Probably.—ED.]

Last spring I noticed that the low song of the Hermit Thrush is repeated, after a short interval, in a high-pitched tone. Is that characteristic of the song of that bird? I fail to find anything in my bird books concerning that point. [I think so.—ED.]

While at Eagle Lake last summer, I found a Vireo, which I called the Red-eyed, that uttered a few whistle-like notes after its usual "broken, rambling recitative," with a strong accent on the second note. I heard the same song several times in the vicinity of my cottage, also along the shore of the lake, a distance of about a mile. It may have been the same bird that I heard at different times. I would like to know if others have ever heard the same thing.

Whip-poor-wills, which were unknown in this region, so say the guides, lumbermen and old trappers, are getting to be quite common. The first one I ever found was at Square Lake Thoroughfare, about six miles from Eagle Lake Mills, June 9, 1904. Last summer I heard two, one near my cottage, the other on the opposite

side of the lake. I haven't heard any yet in the St. John River valley, though it has been reported that one was heard in St. John Plantation, ten miles above Fort Kent, during the summer of 1903.

On January 13th, I saw a flock of about fifty Purple Finches, composed mostly of females. They have been seen nearly every day since that date. As we are having an exceedingly mild winter, I believe they will winter in this territory. On the same day I saw also a Northern Shrike.

January 14th I found a pair of White-winged Crossbills. While the female was feeding on cones in a spruce tree the male was perched on the top of the tree singing a very sweet song, suggestive of the canary's, only not so loud.

A Bronzed Grackle, Juncos and Horned Larks are also wintering in this region.

February 23rd, I went to a lumber camp at Square Lake, where I saw a great many White-winged Crossbills, which sang most charming songs. The variety of bird-songs during the winter made it all the sweeter. I found a male which had white wings and tail, with a few dark feathers on the edge of the wings. I also found a pair of American Crossbills. In this region the White-winged Crossbill is by far the most common.

JOS. C. MORIN.

Fort Kent, Me., March 3, 1906.



A CAPTIVE WHITE-WINGED SCOTER.

(*Oidemia deglandi*.)

CUT TO ACCOMPANY THE STORY OF WHITE-WINGED JERRY, THE SCOTER, BY WALTER H. RICH, PORTLAND. PAGE 69. THE SCOTER BECAME SO TAME THAT HE MADE NO OBJECTIONS TO POSING WITH SOLEMN DIGNITY WHILE HIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN.

The Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society

Published by the Society on the first of March, June, September and December

Vol. VIII

SEPTEMBER, 1906

No. 3

The Tern Colony of Bluff Island.

By W. H. BROWNSON.

[From *Portland Advertiser* of July 7, 1906.]

A motor-boat warranted not to break down; a summer sea lying without a ripple under the scorching rays of the hottest of June suns; the long sea-sickening swells of the ocean lulled to rest by several days of gentle westerly breezes; a party of bird-lovers, and a jolly skipper, accompanied by his island family; the destination, Bluff Island, off Prout's Neck, and in plain sight of Old Orchard; here to find the home of the Terns. These were the conditions, surroundings and intentions, as we set forth from the Cape shore one pleasant morning, June 28. We clug-chugged cheerily along the coast line of Cape Elizabeth, surrounded by playful pollock and plump porpoises, the former showing their shining sides in parabolic curves, and the latter rolling lazily their rounded black and glistening backs above the waves.

A few Herring Gulls sped in varying directions, in search of good feeding ground, but we saw less than a score during the entire morning. These birds, so plentiful in Casco Bay, fall, winter and spring, are now sojourning to the eastward, the nearest breeding colony being at Matineus, where, on No Man's Land, they gather in great numbers. The birds which spend the summer here are doubtless the few barren ones, which have no call to go with their fellows at this season. Just once, on the return trip, a big Blue

Heron alighted on a bar of rock, which makes out from Richmond's Island, and watched warily our passing boat, poking his long neck above a boulder, but keeping his ungainly body well out of sight. This was practically all the bird life that was apparent until we got near Bluff Island.

A trifle over a mile from Prout's Neck, Bluff Island lies only a few hundred yards from Stratton's Island, the latter boasting a comfortable farmhouse and green fields under careful cultivation. The outline of Bluff Island is not bold, but there are rocks on the north-erly side, above which shows a field of tangled grass, and a gradual descent to the sea on the south side. On this island there is a colony of Common Terns, which come here year after year, in constantly increasing numbers to live for the summer and to raise their young. The Common Tern is only a trifle larger than a Robin, but it has a long forked tail, similar to that of a Barn Swallow, and an immense spread of wing, compared to the size of its body. The Terns have a variety of names, such as Mackerel Gulls, Medricks, Sea Swallows and the like, and are readily distinguished from Gulls by their quicker motions and different style of flight; also by their much smaller size. As we approached the island Terns began to come near us and soon they were all around us. There was a confusing chorus of shrill screams as we dropped anchor and we saw the rocks literally white with their perching forms.

When we landed and clambered over the seaweed, having more or less difficulty to keep from slipping off the dripping rocks, the whole colony on that side of the island rose, screeching, into the air. "Te-arr-r," "Te-arr-r," was the yell from hundreds of red-lined throats. As dense as a seething flock of mosquitoes, the birds hovered over us on beating pinions, darting hither and thither and returning again, in graceful curves. Red beaks opened in vociferous protest at our unwelcome presence and orange, webbed feet showed in striking contrast to the white plumage of the under parts. Graceful necks and black-topped heads were stretched out to enable their owners to look down at the fearsome intruders. The cause of their undue anxiety was soon apparent, for we found ourselves

shortly right in the midst of scores of nests, containing both eggs and young birds.

Now came a new experience to some of us ; for here were nests and eggs in such abundance that we had to use the utmost vigilance to keep from treading them underfoot. The eggs were laid in twos, threes, fours and fives, right on the rocks of the shore and among the rubbish thrown up by the waves. So closely did they harmonize with the color of the sand and pebbles that it took a pretty sharp eye to see them. There were single eggs, dropped here and there without the semblance of a nest. Some of these had doubtless rolled away from their original position and the birds had made no effort to get them back. Where there were two or more eggs, there was usually some apology for a nest. If the bird had essayed to make a nest near the dried sea-moss she had used this material for keeping her eggs in place, often constructing a very neat little home. Higher up on the shore, where sticks and straws abounded, the nests were built with more evident care than is usual in such colonies. It must, in some cases, have required a good deal of labor to lay the straws in position and to hollow a nest capable of holding eggs a third larger than those laid by Robins. There were many nests with two eggs, but three was the prevailing number. We saw six or eight nests with four eggs each and three or four, at least, with five eggs apiece. I presume there is a question as to whether two birds may not lay in the same nest and so increase the production beyond the usual limit. This is a matter very hard to settle, however, though some writers take it for granted that such is the case, while others, with an equal amount of guess-work, state that a single bird lays as many as five eggs.

The eggs are, on the average, a dirty yellow or brown, with numerous blotches, but some are lighter than others, while not a few show pale blue. Often a single nest will contain eggs varying in color and perhaps a trifle in size, but again this is not reliable proof of the presence of two birds. Until some investigator, with the patience of Job, and an eye that can distinguish without error one bird from another, actually observes the laying of the eggs, one

after another, up to the point when four or five have been deposited, there will be no conclusive testimony on this point. It is sufficient for the present purpose to remark that the nests show no signs of two occupants and there seems to be no reason why five eggs may not all be laid by a single Tern. It is worthy of note, too, that the nests containing four or five eggs each are better built and much more securely hollowed out than those which have a smaller number.

The eggs were in all stages of incubation, apparently. Some of them were pipped, showing that they were about to hatch, while from others the bill of the young bird was protruding. Several eggs had just hatched and the chick lay an inert mass, no larger than the receptacle from which he had just emerged. On the westerly slope of the rock-strewn beach, where the warmth of the sun was perhaps greatest, quite a few young birds, clad in natal down were observed. These were almost the color of the eggs, yellowish brown, blotched with black. As we came near, the little red throats gaped open to receive the expected bit of fish from the returning mother. The sun beat down on the rocks with great fierceness and some of the young birds were nearly scorched to death. Others were already dead and lay on their backs, reminding us of the accidents which thin out the nestlings and prevent the too rapid multiplication of such colonies as this. Here and there a chick was old enough to be conscious of fear at our approach, and it was interesting to watch these stick their heads under the pebbles and try to hide away from us, perhaps concealing nothing but their eyes and necks.

There was some difference of opinion, in the party, as to the number of birds in this colony. It was a matter of hundreds, of course, for nobody put the figure lower than five hundred, while others thought that one thousand was a small estimate. Probably the latter estimate is not very far out of the way, though actual count might show fifteen hundred. I made a passing visit to the table-land above the rocks and here found many Savanna Sparrows, evidently breeding, from the anxiety which they showed at my presence. These Sparrows are plentiful on nearly all the islands in this vicinity. They may very easily be mistaken for

Song Sparrows, for they show a plain blotch in the centre of a streaked breast, but when they face you the yellowish-white line which divides the crown is very conspicuous. On the island there are numerous Spotted Sandpipers, probably a score of pairs, at the least. These, too, were very nervous at our approach, and their shrill "Quip-ip," "Quip-ip" was easily distinguished from the uproar made by the Terns overhead. Bank Swallows were nesting in holes dug under the sod at the edge of the rocks and were skimming out over the water, near the shore, seeking the insects which there abound. As we started away from the island the Terns which had been in the air during the whole hour that we had remained near their nests, settled quickly back and we left them in calm contentment, perhaps congratulating themselves that it is only once in a great while that they are forced to entertain callers.

Second Visit to the Bluff Island Terns.

[From Portland Advertiser of August 18, 1906.]

It was on the 28th of June when I first visited Bluff Island and inspected the large colony of Common Terns, whose breeding season had then been in progress only a short time. At that date the beach was covered with numerous nests and a great number of eggs. A few young birds had been hatched, but, for the most part, the eggs were in process of incubation. From that time to the present the birds have been busy raising their young, laying new eggs and screaming with all their might at the approach of each and every intruder. August 9th, with a small party of bird students, I again visited Bluff Island and had a good opportunity to observe the condition of the Tern colony six weeks from the date I saw it first. When we drew near the island and anchored our boat the Terns suspected our purpose and made a vigorous protest against it. They made it very plain to us that this was their busy day and that they were not receiving visitors. The air over our heads was soon alive with them, and their shrill cries made a constant din in our ears. During the hour that we were there they did not alight, but,

like swallows, beat back and forth, constantly on the wing, sailing in easy, graceful curves, except when they would dash down in anger to defend their nests and young from what they supposed was a hostile attack.

In June we had estimated that there were over a thousand birds in the colony; now the number was considerably increased and there was not the slightest doubt that the first estimate was not far out of the way. By close observation we were able to distinguish some of the young birds from the old ones, principally by noting that the immature individuals had much shorter tails. On the shelving gravel of the shore there were eggs in abundance, even at this date, some apparently fresh and others ready to hatch. There were also many eggs which were doubtless spoiled. Young birds in all stages of early growth were numerous. Some were not over a couple of days old, but were able to run away and hide at our approach. Others were still wearing their yellowish natal down, but were quite lively and able to take care of themselves. A few were sitting in the nests gasping for breath as the fierce rays of the August sun beat down upon them. More than once we tried to make life pleasanter for them by propping up a flat stone near their nests and providing for them some shaded protection from the heat. Here and there we observed several little birds piled closely together, one on top of the other, under the shadow of a big boulder, where they were keeping comparatively cool.

It was amusing to see the half-grown birds hide from us in the crevices of the rocks and keep perfectly still, no matter how near to them we walked. They relied for protection, perhaps, on the concealment which their coloration gave them, for in the plumage which follows the natal down they are gray and closely match the pebbles of the beach. However, their protective coloration was not sufficient to conceal them, for we had no difficulty in seeing them under all circumstances, when we kept our eyes open. Some of the young birds were old enough to fly a little and these readily took wing when disturbed, but they could only make a gradual descent into the water. Here they swam without inconvenience

and later waded ashore. Several times a young bird fled on foot and got so near the water that the waves engulfed him and tumbled him end over end. He would always recover himself handily with an air of remarking "I wonder how that happened," only to be bowled over again by the next breaker. Often one of the birds in the air would swoop down at us, as if no longer able to control its anger at our intrusion. In these cases we may have been near the nest or young belonging to this particular bird, though as to that I am unable to give anything beyond a conjecture. It seems reasonable to suppose, however, that the birds may keep special watch over their own offspring and make an effort to protect them.

While the young birds are helpless the parents have to work all through the daylight hours to feed them. Small fish, not over three inches in length, are the only diet furnished to the nestlings. At each nest which contained a young bird we saw lying on the ground one or more freshly caught fish. Most of these were little sand-eels, and it was evident that the adult Terns knew where to find this kind of food in abundance. A couple of days later I was at Pine Point and there I saw where the birds secured their sand-eels in so generous quantities. While the tide is out many pools are left and in these tiny fish abound. Over one of these pools hovered a couple of score of Terns, facing a fresh westerly breeze, and balancing themselves with rapid wing-strokes, but keeping their bodies almost motionless. For a space of fifteen seconds, or more, they would hold themselves in the same position, without moving forward a foot. The turn of a feather would give a different angle to their wings and then they would fly ahead rapidly at will. Frequently one of the birds would dive headfirst into the water and rarely did he fail to secure his fish. With the morsel in his bill, the bird would turn and take a straight course for Bluff Island, which lay in plain sight two or three miles away. So, I doubt not these busy workers made many journeys back and forth during the day, for they fly so rapidly that two miles are covered in a very few minutes.

Why Wounded Ducks Disappear.

By FRANK T. NOBLE, Augusta, Me.

In various publications, both scientific and secular, many discussions and queries have recently appeared regarding the remarkable manner in which water fowl, when shot at and wounded, frequently dive beneath the surface of the water and fail to rise again to view.

The theories oftentimes set forth in explanation of this well-known characteristic of the Anatidæ family are numerous, some of them hardly tenable, however, under the application of common natural laws.

The writer has observed the phenomenon frequently under both ordinary and unusual circumstances, and has many times been greatly amazed at the non-appearance after diving of an unquestionably hard-hit duck, and this too at the time when the surface of the water was so smooth as to eliminate the possibility of the bird breaking water ever so lightly for the purpose of taking breath without detection. Such an experience, and it is a common one with all duck shooters, impels one to draw the conclusion that the bird is dead, but for some mysterious and unusual cause does not come to the surface.

It is simply impossible to make the body of a freshly killed duck stay under water without artificial means, as all gunners of water fowl know, also, that the length of time any bird can remain alive underneath the surface is limited to a very few minutes.

Now if the various accounts of these strange and unaccountable disappearances of wounded water fowl (and I do not in the least doubt their truthfulness) were carefully investigated, I am quite sure it would be found that they occur in comparatively shallow bodies of water, or where the bottom is within easy diving distance from the surface, and taking that as an important condition, perhaps the following from my own experience will help to explain and clear away much that has heretofore looked more or less mysterious.

On a bright, sunny afternoon late in September, I was lying in a gunning float off Norris' Cove in a shallow part of that finest

of all Maine's ducking grounds, Merrymeeting Bay. There was scarcely a breath of air stirring, certainly not enough to cause even a ripple upon the surface of the water, which was like a mirror. The tide was about half ebb, and in the bright sunlight the bottom of the bay, with its vegetable growth, was plainly visible. After a few moments of listless waiting and watching for something in the nature of web-footed game to turn up, a bunch of three Pintails, or Gray Ducks, suddenly dropped out of the sky from somewhere, and we sculled them without difficulty, as they are a comparatively unsuspecting bird when first arriving from the North.

I stopped only two, however, owing to a "breakdown" after the first shot, one killed outright, the other, a big drake, being hard hit and with one wing broken. Before the latter could be shot over, he made a dive with considerable difficulty and disappeared from view. We waited perhaps half a minute for him to appear again, but not doing so, we paddled to the spot where we found the water thereabouts to be scarcely three feet deep, and the bottom to be thickly covered with various kinds of lily pads and grasses. A few moments of careful search and the duck was discovered on the bottom, grasping with its bill the tough stem of a cowslip. The body of the bird floated upward posteriorly, somewhat higher than the position of the head, and the long tail feathers were a foot or more nearer the surface than the former. The bird's feet were outstretched, but he was motionless until molested, then he kicked and fluttered vigorously, all the time retaining his hold upon the bottom, and it required considerable force to break him away from his queer anchorage.

I regret my inability to wholly satisfy the general curiosity as to the final outcome of this strange habit. Whether wounded Ducks retain their hold in a death grip after life is extinct, or whether it relaxes with death and the body floats to the surface, I am unable to state with certainty, but I surmise from the experience of other observers as well as myself that the former is the case, and that not until sometime after death do the muscles relax sufficiently to enable the action of the water to free the body from its hold on the bottom.

Perhaps other observers, who have made a more careful study of this phenomenon, will enlighten us upon this important point.

Migration Reports, 1904 and 1905.

The following reports giving the dates when the different species of birds were last seen, were made by:

Dana Sweet, Avon, Franklin County; Everett Johnson, Hebron, Oxford County; Arthur H. Norton, Westbrook, Cumberland County; Sara C. Eastman, Portland, Cumberland County.

	1904.			1905.		
	AVON.	HEBRON.	WESTBROOK.	AVON.	HEBRON.	PORTLAND.
Pied-billed Grebe,				Oct. 28		
Red-throated Loon,				" 28		
Red-breasted Merganser,				" 28		
Black Duck,			Oct. 13	" 28		
American Bittern,			" 28			
Blue Heron,		Sept. 24	" 16			
Black-Crowned Night Heron,	Sept. 10			Aug. 30	Sept. 2	Sept. 30
Sora Rail,			" 26			
American Coot,			" 26			
American Woodcock,			" 26			
Wilson's Snipe,			Nov. 13		Oct. 20	
Solitary Sandpiper,				Oct. 24		
Spotted Sandpiper,	Aug. 23	Oct. 2	Oct. 21	May 17		
Killdeer Plover,	Sept. 4		" 3	Aug. 28		
Marsh Hawk,			Sept. 26	Oct. 24		
Sharp-shinned Hawk,	Aug. 24			Sept. 22		" 30
Cooper's Hawk,	Oct. 22			Oct. 23	Nov. 23	
Red-tailed Hawk,	" 22			Oct. 4		
Red-shouldered Hawk,	" 22	" 2		" 16	" 12	Oct. 7
Broad-winged Hawk,	Aug. 12			Sept. 7		
Pigeon Hawk,			" 20			" 1
Sparrow Hawk,			" 1			
Fish Hawk,	Sept. 30	" 1	" 26	Aug. 29		
Black-billed Cuckoo,	July 16			July 18		
Belted Kingfisher,	Oct. 11		Oct. 3	Oct. 7		Sept. 30
Yellow-bellied Woodpecker,	" 11			" 7	" 6	Oct. 2

Flicker,	Oct. 11	Oct. 9	Sept. 24	Oct. 9	Sept. 11	Oct. 12	Oct. 2
Whip-poor-will,	Sept. 17	Sept. 11	Sept. 20	Sept. 11	Sept. 1	Sept. 1	
Nighthawk,	Aug. 28	Aug. 31	Aug. 21	Aug. 26	Aug. 11	Aug. 11	
Chimney Swift,	Sept. 5	Aug. 31	Aug. 26	Aug. 24	Aug. 20	Aug. 20	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird,	Sept. 16	Sept. 8	Sept. 16	Sept. 4	Sept. 8	Sept. 23	
Kingbird,	Aug. 21	Aug. 27	June 2	Aug. 27	Sept. 8	Sept. 23	
Crested Flycatcher,	Aug. 27	Oct. 9	June 3	Oct. 7	Sept. 8	Sept. 23	
Phoebe,	Sept. 26	Oct. 13	Aug. 3	Sept. 28	Sept. 27	Sept. 27	
Pewee,	Sept. 19	Aug. 16		Sept. 7	Sept. 7	Sept. 7	
Alder Flycatcher,	July 28	" 12		Aug. 19	Aug. 19	Aug. 19	
Least Flycatcher,	Aug. 29	" 12		Oct. 18	Oct. 18	Oct. 18	
Horned Lark,	Nov. 10	Nov. 10	March 8	Nov. 18	Nov. 18	Nov. 18	
Prairie Horned Lark,	" 10	Nov. 10	March 8	Nov. 18	Nov. 18	Nov. 18	
American Crow,	Aug. 17	Aug. 3	Sept. 15	Nov. 19	Nov. 19	Nov. 19	
Bobolink,							
Cowbird,							
Red-winged Blackbird,							
Meadowlark,	" 29	" 3	Nov. 19	Aug. 30	Aug. 30	Aug. 30	
Baltimore Oriole,	(Apr. 22)	" 3	Apr. 16	Apr. 7	Apr. 7	Apr. 7	
Rusty Blackbird,			Oct. 29	Oct. 9	Oct. 9	Oct. 9	
Bronzed Grackle,	May 15	Oct. 8	Oct. 22	Oct. 18	Oct. 18	Oct. 18	
Pine Grosbeak,	Nov. 10	March 20	Sept. 19	March 18	March 18	March 18	
Purple Finch,	" 3			Dec. 15	Dec. 15	Dec. 15	
White-winged Crossbill,	Apr. 27	Apr. 3		March 28	March 28	March 28	
Redpoll,	March 25	March 20		Jan. 1	Jan. 1	Jan. 1	
Snow Bunting,	Oct. 11	Oct. 22	" 16	Oct. 18	Oct. 18	Oct. 18	
Vesper Sparrow,	Sept. 18	Aug. 8		" 1	" 1	" 1	
Savanna Sparrow,	(Oct. 15)	May 21	" 25	May 14	May 14	May 14	
White-crowned Sparrow,	" 20	Oct. 13	Oct. 11	Oct. 13	Oct. 13	Oct. 13	
White-throated Sparrow,	(May 1)	Apr. 24	Nov. 15	" 23	" 23	" 23	
Tree Sparrow,	(Dec. 31)	Sept. 27	Oct. 17	Apr. 28	Apr. 28	Apr. 28	
Chipping Sparrow,	Oct. 23	Sept. 27	Oct. 17	Nov. 5	Nov. 5	Nov. 5	
Field Sparrow,				Oct. 22	Oct. 22	Oct. 22	
Slate-colored Junco,	(Dec. 13)	May 6	May 2	Sept. 24	Sept. 24	Sept. 24	
		Nov. 14	Nov. 16	Apr. 30	Apr. 30	Apr. 30	
				Nov. 13	Nov. 13	Nov. 13	

Song Sparrow,	Oct. 27	Nov. 1	Nov. 19	Oct. 27	Oct. 28	Oct. 28
Swamp Sparrow,	Aug. 10	" 1	" 15	" 28	" 14	" 27
Fox Sparrow,	Oct. 14	May 6	Apr. 18	" 28	" Aug.	" 25
Rose-breasted Grosbeak,	Sept. 9	Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Aug. 30		
Indigo Bunting,	Sept. 27	" 13		July 7		
Scarlet Tanager,	Aug. 10			Aug. 26		
Purple Martin,	Sept. 30			Aug. 27		
Cliff Swallow,	Sept. 28	Sept. 6	Sept. 19	" 1		
Barn Swallow,	Sept. 10	" 12	" 19	" 5		
Tree Swallow,	Aug. 28	Aug. 12	" 19	July 21	" 11	1
Bank Swallow,	July 21	Sept. 17	" 28	Sept. 21		
Cedar Waxwing,	Sept. 18			Feb. 21		
Northern Shrike,	March 23			Aug. 19		
Loggerhead Shrike,	Aug. 10	" 6	" 2	Sept. 10		
Red-eyed Vireo,	Sept. 5			Oct. 2		
Philadelphia Vireo,	Sept. 22			June 23		
Warbling Vireo,				Sept. 5		
Yellow-throated Vireo,	Oct. 26		July 1	Oct. 6	Sept. 1	
Blue-headed Vireo,	" 1		Aug. 27	Sept. 17		
Black and White Warbler,	"	" 8		June 29		
Nashville Warbler,	"	" 17		June 2		
Tennessee Warbler,	"	" 5		July 4		
Northern Parula Warbler,	"	" 28	Sept. 4	Sept. 7		
Yellow Warbler,	Oct. 7		Oct. 30	Oct. 23	Oct. 20	
Black-throated Blue Warbler,	Aug. 18			Sept. 26		
Myrtle Warbler,	Aug. 21			" 17		
Magnolia Warbler,	May 8			" 5		
Chestnut-sided Warbler,	May 26			" 9		
Bay-breasted Warbler,	Sept. 1	May 26		June 17		
Black-poll Warbler,	Sept. 29		Aug. 27	Sept. 24	" 20	
Blackburnian Warbler,	" 11	Sept. 22	May 6	" 7	May 12	
Black-throated Green Warbler,	Oct. 11	May 3	May 10	Oct. 16		
Yellow Pdm Warbler,	Sept. 28	Oct. 1	Oct. 10	Sept. 9		
Ovenbird,		Aug. 29		Aug. 28		
Waterthrush,				July 12		
Mourning Warbler,				Sept. 9		

Northern Yellow-throat,	Oct. 11	Sept. 13	Sept. 26	Sept. 28	Sept. 11	
Wilson Warbler,	May 15			4		
Canadian Warbler,	Aug. 22			Aug. 28		
Redstart,	Sept. 26	Aug. 27	Aug. 23	Sept. 17	" 11	Oct. 1
American Pipit,	{ Oct. 12			May 19		
Catbird,	{ " 14			Oct. 28		
Brown Thrasher,	Aug. 10	Sept. 20	Sept. 24	Sept. 29	Oct. 14	" 1
Winter Wren,	Oct. 24	" 24	" 26		Sept. 15	
Brown Creeper,	May 1		" 17	Oct. 23		
Hudsonian Chickadee,			May 8	Apr. 30		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet,	{ " 7			May 7		
Veery,	{ Oct. 17			Oct. 22		Sept. 8
Olive-backed Thrush,	Aug. 27	Aug. 3		Aug. 28		Oct. 7
Hermit Thrush,	Oct. 6			Sept. 26		Nov. 26
Robin,	" 30	Oct. 30		Oct. 31	Oct. 28	
Bluebird,	Nov. 5	Dec. 8	Nov. 10	Dec. 12	Nov. 15	
	Oct. 28	Oct. 28	Oct. 22	Oct. 26	Oct. 20	

Migration Reports, 1905.

The reports given below were made by: W. H. Brownson, Portland, Cumberland County; A. H. Norton, Portland, Cumberland County; Summer Street Grammar School, Biddeford, York County.

The names of those who assisted in making the school reports are as follows:

RALPH E. GORE,	ETHEL M. BROWNE,
ANDREW HILL,	ADRIAL HAMILTON,
SAMUEL L. LEAVITT,	JAMES F. ROBBINS,
MAY E. A. PILLSBURY,	NINA CAMPBELL,
JOSEPH LIBBY,	GRACE HAMILTON,
CHARLES CLARK,	VASSAR SMITH,

CHARLES S. STROUT, *Principal*.

	PORTLAND.		BIDDEFORD.
Horned Grebe,	Apr.	27	
Pied-billed Grebe,	Sept.	10	
Red-Throated Loon,	Nov.	26	
Dovekie,	Jan.	7	
Kittiwake Gull,	Dec.	26	
Black-backed Gull,	March	5	
Bonaparte's Gull,	Aug.	9	
Common Tern,	May	25	March 24
Leach's Petrel,	Aug.	23	
American Merganser,	Dec.	26	
Red-breasted Merganser,	Apr.	27	
Hooded Merganser,	Oct.	22	
Mallard Duck,	"	22	
Black Duck,	Sept.	16	
Red-legged Black Duck,	Feb.	21	
Green-winged Teal,	Oct.	1	
Pintail Duck,	"	15	
Wood Duck,	Apr.	11	Apr. 11
Redhead Duck,			March 27
American Scamp Duck,	Oct.	29	
Lesser Scamp Duck,	"	29	
American Golden-eye Duck,	Nov.	12	
Bufflehead Duck,	Oct.	22	
Old-squaw Duck,	"	29	
American Eider Duck,	Dec.	28	
American Scoter,	Sept.	24	
White-winged Scoter,	May	25	
Surf Scoter,	Oct.	29	
Ruddy Duck,	"	22	
Canada Goose,	March	19	" 18
Brant,	Apr.	27	
American Bittern,	July	23	
Least Bittern,			May 12
Blue Heron,	Apr.	9	March 29

Green Heron,		May	2		
Black-crowned Night Heron,	May	30			
Sora,	Aug.	25			
Yellow Rail,	Oct.	1	Oct.	1	
American Coot,	"	9			
American Woodcock,	March	23	March	23	
Wilson's Snipe,	Sept.	14		Apr.	1
Purple Sandpiper,	Dec.	26			
Pectoral Sandpiper,	Aug.	13			
Red-backed Sandpiper,	Nov.	5			
Least Sandpiper,	May	25			
Semi-palmated Sandpiper,	July	29			
Greater Yellowlegs,	Aug.	13			
Lesser Yellowlegs,	"	6			
Solitary Sandpiper,	"	18	May	14	
Bartramian Sandpiper,	"	6	Apr.	30	
Spotted Sandpiper,	May	24			
Black-bellied Plover,	Aug.	16			
Semi-palmated Plover,	July	29			
Ruddy Turnstone,	Aug.	23			
Marsh Hawk,	Apr.	6	March	19	
Sharp-shinned Hawk,	Feb.	5	Res.		
Cooper's Hawk,	Apr.	19			
Red-shouldered Hawk,	March	26			
Broad-winged Hawk,	Sept.	17			
Bald Eagle,	Feb.	12			
Pigeon Hawk,	Apr.	27	Apr.	27	
Sparrow Hawk,	June	1		March	19
Fish Hawk,	Apr.	9	"	9	
Short-eared Owl,	Sept.	25	Sept.	24	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo,				June	12
Black-billed Cuckoo,	May	27			
Belted Kingfisher,	Apr.	28		Apr.	22
Yellow-bellied Woodpecker,	"	11	March	31	
Flicker,	March	29	"	29	
Whip-poor-will,	May	22	May	1	
Nighthawk,	"	28	"	21	
Chimney Swift,	"	8	"	6	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird,	"	11	"	10	
Kingbird,	"	9	"	9	
Phoebe,	Apr.	2	Apr.	2	
Olive-sided Flycatcher,	May	22	May	22	
Wood Pewee,	"	28	"	31	
Alder Flycatcher,	"	22	"	22	
Least Flycatcher,	"	7	"	7	
Horned Lark,	March	5			
Prairie Horned Lark,	Nov.	26			
Bobolink,	May	8	"	8	
Cowbird,	Apr.	17	Apr.	14	
Red-winged Blackbird,	March	26	"	11	
Meadowlark,	May	24	March	30	
Baltimore Oriole,	"	11		May	12
Rusty Blackbird,	March	29	"	29	
Bronzed Grackle,	Apr.	6	Apr.	6	
Purple Finch,	Feb.	5		March	19
American Crossbill,	March	5		"	19
White-winged Crossbill,	Apr.	9			
Snow Bunting,	March	5			
Lapland Longspur,	Nov.	5			
Vesper Sparrow,	Apr.	15	"	10	
Savanna Sparrow,	"	9	"	9	

Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow,	Sept.	10			
White-crowned Sparrow,	May	8	May	9	May 13
White-throated Sparrow,	Apr.	26	Apr.	26	Apr. 10
Tree Sparrow,					March 19
Chipping Sparrow,	"	23	"	14	
Field Sparrow,	"	23	"	23	Apr. 7
Junco,	March	19	March	19	March 19
Song Sparrow,	Jan.	15	"	19	" 18
Swamp Sparrow,	Apr.	27	Apr.	27	
Fox Sparrow,	March	19	March	19	
Chewink,	May	12	May	12	May 13
Rose-breasted Grosbeak,	"	22			
Indigo Bunting,	"	30	"	20	" 25
Scarlet Tanager,	"	27			" 25
Summer Tanager,			"	18	
Purple Martin,	"	28	Apr.	22	" 7
Cliff Swallow,	"	8	May	8	
Barn Swallow,	Apr.	25	Apr.	25	Apr. 28
Tree Swallow,		2	"	2	3
Bank Swallow,	May	24			
Cedar Waxwing,	"	27			March 24
Northern Shrike,	Feb.	12			
Loggerhead Shrike,	Apr.	6			
Red-eyed Vireo,	May	11	May	11	May 25
Warbling Vireo,	June	1			
Blue-headed Vireo,	May	14			
Black and White Warbler,	Apr.	30	Apr.	30	" 1
Nashville Warbler,		30			
Northern Parula Warbler,	May	6	May	6	
Yellow Warbler,	"	11			
Black-throated Blue Warbler,	"	7	"	7	" 22
Myrtle Warbler,	Jan.	15	Apr.	16	" 1
Magnolia Warbler,	May	6	May	6	
Chestnut-sided Warbler,	"	8	"	8	" 13
Bay-breasted Warbler,	"	14	"	14	
Black-poll Warbler,	"	22	"	14	
Blackburnian Warbler,	"	14	"	4	
Black-throated Green Warbler,	"	7	"	7	" 13
Pine Warbler,	Apr.	18	Apr.	8	
Yellow Palm Warbler,	"	21	"	11	
Oven-bird,	May	7	May	7	" 26
Waterthrush,	"	22	"	22	" 19
Northern Yellow-throat,	"	6	"	6	" 13
Wilson's Warbler,	"	21	"	20	" 22
Canadian Warbler,	"	14	"	14	" 22
Redstart,	"	8			
American Pipit,	Oct.	22			
Catbird,	May	11	"	11	" 6
Brown Thrasher,	"	11	"	8	" 8
Brown Creeper,	Apr.	9			
White-breasted Nuthatch,	Oct.	7			Feb. 8
Red-breasted Nuthatch,	May	6			
Golden-crowned Kinglet,	July	4			
Ruby-crowned Kinglet,	Apr.	21			
Veery,	May	12	"	12	Apr. 24
Olive-backed Thrush,	"	14	"	14	
Hermit Thrush,	Apr.	10	Apr.	10	May 5
Robin,	March	19	March	19	March 18
Bluebird,	"	19	"	18	" 17

White-winged Jerry, the Scoter.

Story of a Captive Wild "Coot" (*Oidemia deglandi*) at Falmouth Foreside, on the Shore of Casco Bay.

By WALTER H. RICH, Portland.

One Sunday morning two wild-eyed youngsters came tearing into my house dangling between them a very dilapidated specimen of webfoot and dodging his apparently very vicious snaps at them. Poor old fellow! He was in serious case. A bargain was easily struck (I am a mark for all the ornithological derelicts in the neighborhood), and I began at once an examination with a view to repairs needed. The casualties were as follows: Left wing broken, a complete fracture of the humerus—serious; a flesh wound at the base of the neck—not serious; support of outer third of starboard paddle broken and hanging by a thread of skin, and a splinter of bone—not serious (a snip of the shears mends it); rake across the quarter deck—a painful but not a dangerous wound.

He seemed to realize that he had found friends and made not the slightest motion when I pulled the feathers out of his flesh wounds, and poking his black head down into the bend of my friend's arm he scarcely so much as winked while I made splints of pieces of shingles wound with soft cloth, placed the two ends of the bone together and sewed through skin and feathers with soft silk. A quiet corner of the hen house furnished him snug quarters while our mariner was in sick bay, and the rest was left to the good nurse, nature. For a few days the main trouble was to make the patient eat, although we did not urge him much at first, but after four days I thought it necessary to push pieces of fish down his throat. The seventh morning of his stay he began to grow restive and tug at his splint. Thinking to replace it more correctly I removed the bandages to find, to my surprise, that the bone had knit firmly. The question of food supply was now of the most importance. Corn he would not touch, chopped "wrinkles" and mussels he refused, his dainty appetite could not longer endure fish, but experiments with sea foods showed a strong liking on his part for clams, and it now became a regular task for me to procure these and "shock out"

and deliver, at least twice, and nearly always three times a day, his rations. Twenty-five good-sized clams he would eat with relish; after that he refused all but the softer parts.

He now became very tame, following me about like a dog, had free run of the place except at night, when he was shut up in a shelter, and showed no fear of any person or creature about the premises. He fought fearlessly with hens or cats, and rode down a flight of steps hanging to the pointer's ear. He showed himself well able to defend his rights, especially at meal times, holding on to an offender with his bill and striking vigorous blows with his wings.

Becoming lonesome he would waddle up from the little pond I had made him, climb the piazza steps and hammer away on the screen door with his bill, asking an invitation within. He spent a great deal of time at this and seemed well pleased to look into the house at the coming and going inside. He became the tamest of any of the fowl upon the place. I soon changed my first opinion, that he was a stupid, sullen fowl, incapable of any regard for his hosts, and spent much of my spare time in the grass by the edge of his pond. When growing tired of dabbling and splashing, he would come out and climb over me most sociably. We named him "Jeremiah," shortening it to "Jerry" for ordinary use, and he seemed to know his name. It may be the name offended his critical taste—it certainly was no title to go to sea with—at any rate he never failed to open his mouth and faintly hiss a protest whenever addressed by it, but on the whole he seemed contented with his lot.

While free to do so, he seldom strayed away from home. His only venture occurred one morning when (returning late the night before I was unable to find him and he stayed out in the grass all night) he ran away down the street and compelled an electric car to stop while he defied it to run over him, only scuttling off when the motorman dismounted to catch him. He came straight home on the run, a distance of two hundred yards, and made for the safety of his puddle.

I was much interested in his seamanship, his paddling methods,

and the like. I had seen coots and whistlers rise up in the water and shake their wings out, always at long range, but here was a nearer view. He would make a sudden powerful backward stroke with his paddles, reverse his engines as quickly, and with the cheek come up on his sternpost to applaud himself vigorously with his wings. His paddle strokes were made sidewise instead of deep down like those of most fresh water fowl, but whether the shallowness of his pond had anything to do with this or not I am unable to say. When under water the strokes were made straight backward, and go! No fresh water duck that I have ever seen in action could compare with him for speed or quickness in the water, but ashore he was the clumsiest of waddlers.

He seemed to much enjoy having me fight with him and shake my fingers in his face, especially below the water when he swam. He never refused a challenge and would bite as long as my fingers held out. He was a very silent bird; the only sound I heard him make was a low, weak, nearly inaudible hissing, with open mouth or softly snapping bill, when excited; never a whistle of any kind.

During all this time he made no attempt at flight. His wings seemed in good order, with no apparent trouble in them. After six weeks of promising convalescence, during which I grew much attached to him, he suddenly refused to eat and sat all the time motionless upon his pond's edge. Nothing would tempt him. I thought perhaps the heat was too much for him, but he grew steadily worse, and only when he had died did I discover a shothole in his body under the breast feathers, where gangrene had done its work.

I especially regretted his death because a chance was presented to study his plumage changes, just beginning. When he came to me he was in the perfection of his wedding clothes (May 27), and at his death (July 7) he had begun to show brown tips and edges on the interscapulars and specklings of rusty at the base of the bill and on the cheeks.

But so pass our dreams! "Jerry" is now diving for mussels and shucking his own clams upon the river Styx. Let us hope he has learned wisdom by past experience, for if Charon is like the boatmen of Casco Bay he probably invested in an automatic shotgun at the same time when, to keep up with the march of progress, he fitted his ferryboat with a gasoline motor.

Notes on Some Birds of Pleasant Ridge.

By O. W. KNIGHT, Bangor, Me.

While attending the meeting of the Josselyn Botanical Society at Pleasant Ridge Plantation, Rowe Pond Camps, July 2 to 7, 1906, a few birds were noticed whose presence it seems desirable to record.

HERRING GULL.—A few gulls were noticed about Rowe Pond from time to time which evidently came there to feed, though doubtless they were nesting on some one of the larger ponds not far distant.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD.—This species evidently breeds rather generally about the ponds and streams of this locality, only one pair of birds being found in a given place. I noticed a pair which most certainly had a nest with young birds at the head of Rowe Pond, and another pair were evidently nesting at the outlet of the same pond. A pair were nesting on the shore of Bean Pond, another pair at Brandy Pond, and several pairs were noticed scattered at intervals along the boggy shores of Jewett Brook, only a pair in a place.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE.—An old bird and four young of this species were to be seen sporting in the waters of Rowe Pond.

Many species of Warblers were breeding in the woods and about the shores of the ponds in this region. Among the species noted as rather common were Blackburnian Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Yellow Palm Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Canadian Warbler, as well as our commoner species whose presence would be naturally expected.

Among the Vireos present were noted the Solitary, Warbling and Red-eyed as common. I saw one individual and heard it sing, which was most certainly a Philadelphia Vireo, though it is with considerable hesitancy that the name of such a rare species is mentioned in the absence of the bird in hand to verify the record.

Winter Wrens were common everywhere and in full song.

Canada Jays were seen on two occasions.

American and White-winged Crossbills were seen in large flocks flying overhead or feeding on the seeds of various conifers.

Cats and Bird Protection.

By A. H. NORTON.

The harmful effect of cats upon bird and small game protection has long been recognized. In the report of the Maine Fish and Game Commissioners for 1886 attention was called to the matter, and various cases of observed damage cited. Cats are particularly injurious to Leach's Petrels whenever kept on islands inhabited by these birds. The nearly depleted condition of one of the largest colonies on the Maine coast is attributable to cats.

When the writer was at the State House about a year ago, the chairman of the present Commission of Fisheries and Game said, "Something ought to be done about the cats. Let's take it up." In view of this important sentiment, it is very gratifying to notice, according to the Audubon Society department of Bird-Lore for July and August, 1906 (page 146), that the inspector of the first lighthouse district has taken a decided step in the matter in relation to the large and important colony at Great Duck Island, issuing an order that the light keepers are expected to confine or remove their cats until after the close of the breeding season. It is to be hoped that a more general remedy may be found by the coming legislature.

Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society will be held in Portland, at the rooms of the Portland Society of Natural History, on Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving day. Ample arrangements will be made for places where visiting members may procure accommodation during the two days of the meetings. It is earnestly hoped that there will be a large attendance, as special efforts will be made to have a program of more than usual interest.

The Journal

of the Maine Ornithological Society

A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study and Protection of Birds

Vol. VIII

Published September 1, 1906

No. 3

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: 50 cents a year; 15 cents a copy

OFFICERS OF THE MAINE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Pres., PROF. LESLIE A. LEE, Brunswick
 Vice-Pres. DR. H. H. BROCK, Portland
 Sec.-Treas., J. MERTON SWAIN, Skowhegan
 Councillors, CAPT. H. L. SPINNEY, Seguin
 ORA W. KNIGHT, Bangor

W. H. BROWNSON, Portland,
 Editor
 FRANK T. NOBLE, Augusta
 Associate Editor

Mr. Ruthven Deane, of Chicago, one of the original members of the Nuttall Club and the A. O. U., has been spending the summer at Scarborough Beach. By his frequent visits to Maine he is getting to be really one of our most active Maine ornithologists. He contributes to this number of the JOURNAL several interesting notes.

The story by Walter H. Rich about his captive White-winged Scoter is very interesting, being the account of how a bird usually living far from the company of man readily responded to kindness, and returned it to the best of his very clumsy ability.

Warden George H. Cushman is doing fine work towards enforcing the law protecting Gulls and Terns. He recently caused the arrest of a man who was illegally shooting Terns, and Judge Hill, of the Portland Municipal Court, promptly imposed a fine on the offender.

The Song Sparrow photograph reproduced in the June number of the JOURNAL has met with wide commendation and several requests have been received for copies of the original photograph or for a loan of the half-tone plate. The photographer, Mr. Chas. H. Tolman, of Portland, is receiving many words of appreciation for his excellent work.

Bird Notes.

Notes and observations upon bird life within our State are earnestly desired from all our readers for publication in this column, and should be sent to the Associate Editor, Frank T. Noble, Augusta, Maine.

We note with much satisfaction the increasing frequency with which the members of our society report to this JOURNAL their ornithological observations. This is an important part of our duties, one to another, and should be shared in by all interested in bird life. The JOURNAL's columns are always open to contributors of items of general interest relating to Maine birds, and we trust our members will, through this medium, disseminate such knowledge as they personally possess.

Notes from Scarborough Beach.

BONAPARTE'S GULL (*Larus philadelphia*).—The appearance of this species in considerable numbers, so early in the season, seems unusual. I first noticed fifteen or twenty individuals on July 25, 1906, fishing in company with the Wilson's Tern at the lower end of Scarborough Beach, near Prout's Neck. Among the flock were three or four in the adult summer plumage. Between July 25th and August 23rd, I have seen a few specimens every few days. Dr. Chas. P. Coues informs me that he first observed them on the same feeding ground, about the middle of July, and has observed them every few days since. Their appearance here at this season would indicate that they had been further to the south of their usual breeding range.

WILSON'S TERN (*Sterna hirundo*).—While approaching Bloody Pond, a strip of fresh water situated back of Scarborough Beach, to watch a flock of some fifty Terns, feeding, I startled three Crows from a little grove of small pitch pines. The Crows had no sooner gotten underway when they were pursued by three of the Terns, who followed them closely for several hundred yards, darting at them from above and beneath. While it is a common occurrence for the Terns to give chase to their own species, when the pursued is carrying fish to its young, I have never before observed them harassing other species. [Dr. Townsend, in "Birds of Essex County,"

refers to the Common Tern chasing the Sharp-shinned Hawk. He also remarks that when Jaegers pursue Terns, the Terns are accustomed to chase the Jaegers in retaliation. A well-known observer, who has had much experience with sea birds, tells me that Crows are wont to disturb Terns on their breeding islands and prey on their eggs and young. The Terns will attack a Crow with the greatest vigor as soon as he makes his appearance near their homes. It is related how Terns attacked some tame pigeons while a high wind was prevailing. Against the wind the Terns had the advantage, being stronger, if not swifter, on the wing. When the race was with the wind the pigeons easily left their antagonists far in the rear.—EDITOR.]

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER (*Nuttalloruis borealis*).—During the first week in August, 1906, I enjoyed watching three families of this species. Two of these constituted the parents and three young, which were located within two hundred yards of each other. While the young were strong flyers, they were constantly fed by the parents. The third family consisted of only two young, and were probably reared in the pine grove adjacent to the Atlantic House, for I could watch the young being fed from the piazza of the house. On August 20, 1904, I saw a pair of this species in this same grove. They were evidently adults.

LOON (*Gavia imber*).—During three summers spent at Scarboro Beach, I have never seen this species so abundant. Two or three pairs feeding outside the breakers, in the space of half a mile along the beach and rocks, is an every day occurrence, but during the last of July and early August they were not only abundant in pairs and small flocks of four to six, but I frequently saw them in flocks of a dozen, and on one occasion with my glass, counted seventeen feeding together. In the early morning their weird cry could be heard for a long distance.

PHALAROPE.—While walking on Scarboro Beach, near Prout's Neck, on July 24th, 1906, my son, Charles Deane, observed what he

at first supposed to be a flock of about fifteen Sandpipers. On a nearer approach the flock rose, flew out beyond the surf and alighted on the water, where they remained a short time before returning to the beach. The species was unquestionably *P. lobatus*, and their appearance from the north so early in the season in this locality is unusual.

MYRTLE WARBLER (*Dendroica coronata*).—While I searched carefully in the pine groves of Scarboro Beach during July and August, 1906, I failed to detect but one specimen, which was an adult. I observed this one on July 25th, within a short distance of where I found a pair feeding their young on July 27th, 1903.

RUTHVEN DEANE.

Scarboro Beach, Aug. 28, 1906.

A PAIR OF PLUCKY PHOEBES.—Early in May a pair of Phœbes built a nest under the eaves of a neighbor's ice house, at Highland Lake. The board on which their home was built was at an angle of forty-five degrees. The nest was well constructed of the usual materials and built up on the outside to make it level at the top. Everything went well, the five eggs had hatched, and the little birds were two days old when a very bad storm came up, with unusually heavy winds, which proved very disastrous to the pair of Phœbes. Their nest was blown down and their babies drowned in the steady downpour of cold rain. A week later, June 10th, I made my usual visit to camp, reaching there late in the evening. On getting out the next morning my attention was attracted by the constant notes and apparent distressed activity of the pair of Phœbes. Being impressed with their actions, I decided to hunt for the cause. I soon discovered that the birds had good reason to complain, for I found they had built home, No. 2, on top of the stove funnel, which passed through the side of the camp directly under the eaves. Their distress was occasioned by a rousing good fire in the stove, which heated the funnel on which the nest was located. This of course discouraged the birds, and the half-completed nest was deserted. This second experience was very regrettable, and my sympathy

went out to the unfortunate ones. It suddenly occurred to me that if I put up a board under my camp piazza the birds might be induced to build again. So I secured one about six feet long and three inches wide and nailed it across to the floor timbers. This gave them several selections for a home in the several corners. Imagine my delight on reaching there two weeks later, June 24th, to find the birds had built home, No. 3, on this board. The nest contained five eggs. A week later five birds had hatched and the parents were very busy supplying the wants of their hungry family. This last nest was much smaller than any I have ever seen. July 8th the birds were well-grown. July 15th two birds were in the nest, two just outside. The fifth, I think, was in a young growth of oak and maple, quite near, as the parent birds were making constant visits there, although after diligent search, I failed to find it. At night all were out of the nest and fully a quarter of a mile from their old home.

LOUIS E. LEGGE.

Portland, August 20, 1906.

SWALLOWS IN PORTLAND.—I recently came across a date in my diary, which perhaps you may like to jot down in your notes. June 16, 1872, Swallows built their nests under the eaves of what was then the store of Woodman, True & Co., now the store of Cook, Everett & Pennell, on Middle street. That year, or before, or after (I haven't found this), they also built under the eaves of the Portland Savings Bank. My memory is that they staid several years at the Woodman, True & Co. store, but only one at the Savings Bank.

JOHN M. GOULD.

Portland, July 23, 1906.

INSECT EATING HABITS OF THE HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*).—The morning of July 5, 1906, I noticed a flock of English Sparrows clambering over stalks of *Aster cordifolius*, on the grounds of the Portland Society of Natural History. The leaves of the aster had been infested with insects, which had rolled the leaves in bunches, several leaves in a single bunch. The birds

hopped from above, down the stems, below the top of the tall grass, inspecting the lower parts of the leaves, and each cone of leaves, frequently seizing some insect. They seemed very eager in their work. As I had to take one of the steamers I could not follow up the matter. Two days later I examined the plants and the leaf cones, with the result of finding only one lady-bug.

During the flying period of the brown-tail moth (*Euproctis chrysorrhæa*), which culminated in Portland about July 20th, I was frequently struck by the observation of detached wings of the moths under most of the arc lamps around which they had gathered.

The case seemed to me well explained as a female English Sparrow came hopping along a sidewalk, watching for some article of food. Spying a large female brown-tail, on the ground under one of the lamps, the Sparrow seized its abdomen, and severed a large part with her powerful beak, ate it with such relish that she proceeded to finish the abdomen with enclosed eggs at two more mouthfuls. Then seizing the throat and head, with a twist of her jaws, the wings were cleft from the body and hurled in opposite directions. This meal finished she went hopping about for more food. Unfortunately, I had killed all of the moths under this lamp (over-looking the one eaten by the Sparrow), so there was no supply of this kind to tempt her further.

It seems well here to record, that I was informed, that as the moths were washed from high walls in Westbrook, with a hose, numbers were eaten from the ground by the Sparrows, though they were not seen to take any as they clung to objects above the ground.

It is usual around Portland, when hay is cut near streets inhabited by Sparrows, to see the birds gather in various sized flocks on the windrows and mown grounds, and several times I have observed them eating piece-meal, large grasshoppers.

While indexing some of my JOURNALS, I find that in 1889, I saw on several occasions between June 17 and 22, Sparrows killing large caterpillars of the Mourning Cloak Butterfly (*Envanessa antiopa*). They were never seen to swallow these, but killed them after the manner of a Kingfisher, by beating.

ARTHUR H. NORTON.

Portland, Me.

OBSERVATION ON A CHIPPING SPARROW.—On a recent collecting trip in South Windham, Me., while waiting for a car, a companion sat by the roadside, smoking a cigar. As a section of ash fell, a leaf of it was caught by the gentle breeze and borne several yards in the air, looking much like a small moth. A Chipping Sparrow, which was feeding on the track near at hand, espied it fluttering away, and sharing our mistake, put a hot chase, and detected its error only when close to the object and nearly ready to seize it. Without snapping at it, the bird returned to its occupation of searching upon the ground for food.

ARTHUR H. NORTON.

Portland, Me.

HOODED MERGANSER.—A fine specimen of the Hooded Merganser was shot at Millinocket, Me., about April 20 or 21st, 1906. It was a full plumaged male.

WM. COOPER.

Milo, May 29, 1906.

AMERICAN EGRET.—An adult American Egret in full breeding plumage (sex not determined), was received in the flesh, by the S. L. Crosby Co., May 3, 1906, from A. J. Walling, of Millbridge.

O. W. KNIGHT.

Bangor, May 29, 1906.

KILLED BY COLD.—I am extremely sorry to say that the recent cold weather has been disastrous to Tanagers, Warblers and others of our friends. Three Tanagers were brought in, which were found dead and likewise three Warblers.

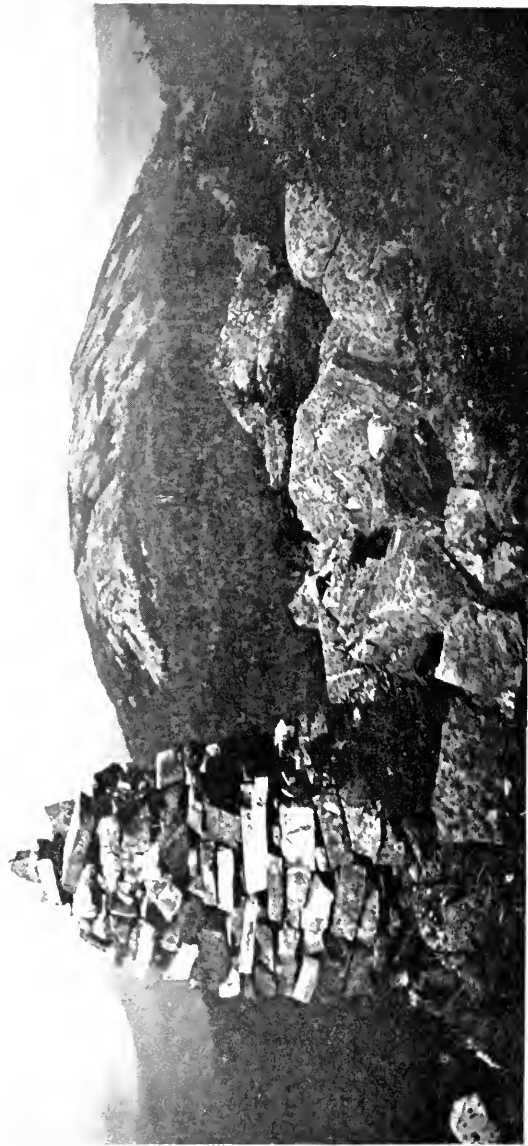
WM. COOPER.

Milo, May 29, 1906.

MIGRATION NOTE.—The flight of Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks through the lower Penobscot Valley this past spring was unusual. Both species are usually very rare and of irregular occurrence in this region, averaging not more than one or two individuals of each species seen each three years. This spring many Tanagers and Grosbeaks were seen and numbers reported by other observers.

ORA W. KNIGHT.

Bangor, July 17, 1906.



THE SUMMIT OF MT. ABRAHAM, FRANKLIN COUNTY.

CUT TO ACCOMPANY THE ARTICLE ON BICKNELL'S THRUSH ON MT. ABRAHAM, ON OPPOSITE PAGE. AT THE RIGHT OF THE LARGE ROCKY PLACE, NEXT TO THE MONUMENT, ON A LEVEL SPACE, THE SONG OF THE BICKNELL'S THRUSH WAS HEARD.

The Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society

Published by the Society on the first of March, June, September and December

Vol. VIII

DECEMBER, 1906

No. 4

Bicknell's Thrush on Mt. Abraham.

By DANA W. SWEET.

Early in the morning, June 22, 1906, I started from Phillips with a friend, Ernest Vining, of Strong, for a trip up Mt. Abraham. The rocky peaks of this mountain are surrounded by a dense evergreen growth, mostly fir. The summit of the highest peak is 3,378 feet high, according to the measurement of Phil Stubbs, of Strong. The mountain is in the township of Mt. Abraham, north of Phillips.

In the White Mountains, the Bicknell Thrush (*Hylocichla aliciae bicknelli*) is said to be found lower down than 3,000 feet. There are a number of mountains in Maine whose Alpine summits, with their scrubby evergreen growth, would be a suitable habitat for this species, and I have for some time desired to explore some of the peaks in Franklin County in search of it.

When we reached the top of the mountain, I heard what I believed to be the call notes of the Bicknell Thrush. A thunder shower now came upon us, and we spent half an hour crouching under scrub spruces. When it cleared off, we passed on to another peak, which is an immense pile of rocks. As we were coming out of the woods, I heard what I knew at once to be the song of a Bicknell Thrush. It came from a dense thicket of firs, most of which were about six feet tall, and they grew so thickly that it was with the greatest difficulty that I worked my way through them. Twice I got very near the bird, but not quite near enough to see it. I was

now thoroughly drenched, for the foliage was dripping wet in consequence of the recent shower, so I decided to postpone the attempt until a more favorable time.

Before attempting to describe the song of any species of bird, one should hear the song of several individuals of that species. The description which I shall now give of the Bicknell Thrush's song must be understood to refer only to the individual bird that I heard.

In one respect the song was like the Veery's, being a blended alto and soprano, but only in this one respect, for the tone was different, and the song was richer and more musical. The Veery's song has a ringing quality and is suggestive of a series of intertwining circles. It may be represented in words thus: "Vree-u, ree-u, ree-u, ree-u." The Bicknell's song commenced with two short, low notes having a sibilant quality. Then followed a single prolonged note of blended alto and soprano. The song may be represented thus: "Tse, tse, vree-e-e-e-e-e."

The call note is to me remotely suggestive of that of the Veery. The Veery's note is mellow or liquid, while the Bicknell's is sharp and somewhat rasping, and seems much louder. It has some of the tone quality of the song, just as there is a similarity between the song and the call note of the Catbird.

I will now mention the different species of birds that I saw while on the mountain. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and some Pine Siskins were in a growth of tall spruces on the brow of the mountain; American Crossbills were occasionally seen flying overhead; Juncos were on the bare rocks of the summits; White-throated Sparrows, Nashville Warblers, and Myrtle Warblers were fairly common; the Blackburnian Warbler was also there; I was especially pleased to come across a pair of Hudsonian Chickadees; Olive-backed Thrushes were very common and were not afraid to be seen, but the Bicknell Thrushes were always out of sight in evergreen thickets, either in the stunted growth adjoining the rocky summits or in the larger, middle-sized growth in the sags between the peaks.

In an article in the June number, I mentioned the Olive-backed

Thrush as being found in growths of young beech. A misprint changed the word "beech" to "birch."

We made a second trip up the mountain Sept. 20th. When part way up, we came across some Pine Grosbeaks. We had an unobstructed view of two females, which were within about twenty feet of us. It took us about one hour and twenty minutes to reach the top, taking frequent short rests, and about seven hours to go across the mountain and return to the top of the first peak, with practically no time for rest except fifteen minutes for dinner.

In the forenoon the call notes of the Bicknell Thrushes were heard in all directions, showing this species to be common here. In the afternoon they commenced their call notes at 4.45 o'clock. There were no Olive-backed Thrushes in evidence during this trip. They had probably left the mountain for the low land, on account of their migration time being near at hand. I saw the White-throated Sparrow and frequently heard the notes of the Golden-Crowned Kinglet. Twice I heard the song of the Hudsonian Chickadee, and on one of the rocky summits was an American Pipit.

While on the highest summit I heard a sweet, mellow note, which sounded to me like that of the Lesser Yellowlegs. Glancing around I saw a pair of birds approaching, with the evident intention to alight, but noticing us they flew up, and after circling about us several times flew away. Their flight, like their note, also suggested that of the Lesser Yellowlegs. They had narrow, pointed wings, and a rather long tail and neck. They were doubtless some species of water bird.

Perhaps it may interest the readers of the JOURNAL to briefly mention some features of the flora that we observed.

The mountain cranberry (*Vaccinium Vitis-Idæa*) was abundant. The berries are usually picked before they are ripe, when they are hard and very acid, and somewhat bitter when cooked, but now they were fully ripe, bright red all over, tender, and very nearly as good eating as blueberries. We carried a quantity home with us, which, when cooked, were very fine and without any bitter taste.

The bog bilberry (*Vaccinium uliginosum*) was quite common

and grew in small patches. The berries look and taste very much like the common blueberry.

The creeping snowberry (*Chiogenes scryphillifolia*) was quite common, but we found only one patch that had fruit. The berries are white and are far superior in flavor to the boxberry.

Another interesting plant which we found quite common is the crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*). The slender stems are prostrate, much branched, and have evergreen leaves, like the spruce and hemlock. The berries are watery and have a dark, smoky color.

Birds in and Around Portland in 1906.

By W. H. BROWNSON.

During the year 1906, now nearly at its close, I have, as occasion offered, spent much of my spare time observing the birds in and around Portland. It may not be out of place for me to call the attention of readers of the JOURNAL to some of the more interesting species which I have seen, and to give some idea of the manner and frequency of their occurrence in this section.

On four or five different occasions, during January and February, a flock of about a dozen Myrtle Warblers was seen, from time to time, at Cape Elizabeth, this being the third winter that they have occurred in that same general locality. Purple Finches were quite abundant during January, a flock of thirty or forty making their home in the woods of South Portland and Cape Elizabeth. In January, Captain Jones, of the steamer "Turcoman," brought to Portland a Snow Bunting, which came on board the steamer about 600 miles from Newfoundland and about the same distance from the Azores, no land being nearer than those points. The bird was very tired when it alighted on the ship, but when it arrived here it was in fine condition. Captain Jones has in his possession a Blackbird, which came on board his ship in mid-ocean, and all efforts to ascertain the exact species to which it belongs have so far proved unavailing. It is supposed to be a South American variety.

Several Robins spent the winter at Cape Elizabeth, not far from where the Myrtle Warblers were observed on several occasions. On the 22d of February, during a trip on a motor boat down the bay, a flock of Kittiwakes was seen not far from the inner islands. In the vicinity of Halfway Rock small flocks of Eider Ducks were seen; also quite a number of Black Guillemots. February 25th, a flock of about fifty Cedar Waxwings was present near the shore at Cape Elizabeth. They stayed in this vicinity for a week or two, then were seen no more until late in the spring.

March 11th, Crows began to go north in large numbers and continued for several days thereafter. At Pine Point many Horned Larks were seen on March 11th, and with them there were quite a few Prairie Horned Larks. Several Lapland Longspurs were with the Larks and were observed feeding in a stubble field near the Pine Point station. Robins and Bluebirds were considerably later than usual in arriving from the south during the spring. Juncos, Fox Sparrows, Rusty Blackbirds, Flickers and Bluebirds were here in large numbers April 1st. About this same time all the common species of Hawks were noted in about the usual numbers.

Red-winged Blackbirds and Bronzed Grackles came in considerable numbers April 8th, and Meadowlarks and Phœbes were observed the following day. April 13th, a Yellow-crowned Night Heron was shot within Portland city limits, and the specimen was turned over to a local taxidermist. This is a very unusual species for Maine, although it is not the first record. April 15th, came a flock of Tree Swallows. April 22d, there was a Mockingbird at South Portland, which attracted considerable attention from many observers. Probably this was an escaped cage bird, but there is no evidence one way or the other. Cowbirds, which were plentiful the previous year, were seen only in small numbers during April. May 5th and 6th, there was a great wave of Warblers all through this section of the state. More different species came north on those two early days than I have ever known before, at least a dozen different varieties being observed.

May 6th, came the Blue-headed Vireo, the Whip-poor-will and

the Towhee. For a long time a colony of Eaves Swallows has nested under a farm shed at Cape Elizabeth, and a number of the same colony arrived May 8th; they stayed for a few days, during which time they inspected the old nests, but a week later they had disappeared, and after that no more of the colony was seen. Why the locality was deserted by these Swallows there is no means of knowing. Bobolinks made their appearance rather earlier than usual this spring, the first being seen May 5th. Chimney Swifts arrived May 13th. Scarlet Tanagers were much more common than for several years during the spring. Several Bay-breasted Warblers were seen May 20th and a little later, this being the second consecutive season in which they have come this way. Black-billed Cuckoos were much more common this year than for several seasons in the past. Caterpillars were in greater abundance than usual, and this may account for the presence of the Cuckoos.

During the summer I paid two visits to the Tern colony on Bluff Island, where perhaps five hundred pairs of Common Terns spent the breeding season. Bank Swallows were as common as usual on the islands of Casco Bay. August 4th, Bonaparte's Gull, Lesser Yellowlegs, and the Dowitcher were reported on the neighboring coast. Turnstones and Semi-palmated Sandpipers came along about the first of August, while Semi-palmated Plovers arrived a few days later. Several Golden Plovers were reported by gunners at Scarboro, only a single individual being seen at one time. August 29th, two Hudsonian Curlews were seen on the Cape shore, and about the same time others were reported shot by gunners farther down the coast. August 30th, at Old Orchard, some distance out from the shore, Jaegers were seen pursuing the numerous Gulls of that locality; probably these were Parasitic Jaegers. Elsewhere, I have noted the occurrence of Connecticut Warblers at Cape Elizabeth, September 17th.

During the fall migration Black-poll Warblers were unusually abundant. Late records were made of the Black-throated Green Warbler October 13th, the Redstart October 13th, and the Black-poll Warbler October 14th. Several Ipswich Sparrows were seen at

Pine Point October 14th. Fox Sparrows were abundant October 20th, and for the rest of the month. Savanna Sparrows were also common on their southward journey about the same date. October 22nd, an American Goshawk was seen at Cape Elizabeth. Several other specimens have been brought to the local taxidermists and several more have been reported from other parts of the state.

During October a large flock of White-winged Crossbills stayed in the Cape woods. It is interesting to note that there was a predominance of White-winged Crossbills, careful inspection of the flock on two different days showing that only here and there were a few Red Crossbills. Red-breasted Nuthatches have been unusually plentiful during the fall. I do not remember that I have been out in the woods a single time since August without seeing several of these birds. It is not unusual to see at least a dozen during an hour's tramp. This abundance of Nuthatches is quite unusual in these parts, more so than for several years past.

Bluebirds were seen November 3d, when a flock of six or eight were noted at South Portland. Several Olive-backed Thrushes were in the Cape Elizabeth woods November 4th. A couple of Redpolls were seen at Cape Elizabeth November 4th. They were feeding by the roadside and there were others in the pine trees near by, although I was unable to estimate the probable number. November 11th, on a cloudy afternoon, something like five hundred Crows, in a compact flock, were seen flying southward. On this same date Pine Grosbeaks, in small numbers, were reported from Westbrook by Mr. Norton.

Up to the middle of November several Acadian Owls have been seen and one or two specimens have been captured. The Snowy Owl is again here, several specimens having been shot and taken to the local taxidermists for mounting. November 18th a considerable flock of Pine Siskins was seen feeding on pine seeds at Pine Point. Horned Larks were also there in a good-sized flock and with them a few Prairie Horned Larks. Several Black-backed Gulls are spending the winter at Pine Point, associated with a large flock of Herring Gulls. Crows are plentiful around Pine Point all through the winter.

Contributions to the Life History of the Pine Warbler.

Dendroica vigorsii (Aud.).

By J. MERTON SWAIN.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION—MIGRATION RANGE.—The average date of arrival in spring to the state seems to be about April 19th. The earliest date I find is March 30th at Lewiston. The dates in the interior part of the state for the past ten years, I find, range from April 5th to 30th. They disappear slowly in the fall, ranging from September 5th to Oct. 21st.

BREEDING RANGE.—Eastern United States, from Florida and the Gulf States northward to New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba. Nesting most common in the Alleghenian Life Zone, but extends more or less common into the Canadian.

WINTER RANGE.—Rare in eastern Texas, south to Corpus Christi. Common among the pines from North Carolina and Southern Illinois southward. It has not been reported in Cuba or the islands south of Florida. One specimen was seen at Matamoras, Tamaulipas, February, 1902. This is the first record of occurrence in Mexico, or any other point outside of the United States, except as a casual straggler in the Bermudas.

In early April this species enters the southern part of our state and soon becomes rather common along the coast and in the interior, wherever there are patches of pine trees, and through May and June I have found them quite common in Knox, Lincoln and Waldo counties. Have observed them more or less abundant in Androscoggin, Oxford, Franklin, Somerset and Kennebec counties, and on their arrival they may be seen in the pine trees, in pairs and small flocks, busily gleaning for insects. The latter part of May they begin nest building. All the nests I have seen were placed well up near the top of a pine tree, horizontally and near the trunk of the tree. The nests are very difficult to locate, and one has to watch the birds carry nest material or food to the young. The

nests are neatly and compactly built of strips of bark and weeds, a few roots and bits of dry oak leaves, lined with hairs and a few feathers. The nests I have examined were not as deep and cup-shaped as the nest of the Myrtle Warbler, but shaped more like the nest of the Magnolia Warbler.

Of the several nests I have seen, four eggs were the complement. They were placed from eighteen to twenty-five feet up. They were placed invariably in smallish pines, at the edge of the taller pines and deep woods, in an old clearing or opening on a side hill, where were interspersed a few small oak and some gray birch. Two nests I have examined were found in Livermore by Mr. Guy H. Briggs. One nest, with young, I found near Sheepscot Bridge, one in Jefferson, and two in Damariscotta. Have seen evidence of nesting near Camden, South Hope, Warren and Wiscasset. The eggs are dull whitish or grayish-white ground, well speckled and spotted with lilac-gray and burnt umber, and usually there is a wreath about the larger end. The egg averages about .68 x .52.

This interesting, busy little Warbler gleans incessantly for insect food, catching them right and left, as he goes creeping in and out the boughs of the evergreen trees, much like that relative of his, the Black and White Warbler, occasionally uttering a clear little trill that is somewhat like the song of the Chipping Sparrow, yet easily distinguished from it. After the young are on the wing, they may be seen in little family groups, creeping eagerly for food, and from September 5th to the first half of October they slowly wend their way to a warmer clime.

List of Members of Maine Ornithological Society, December 1, 1906.

Following is a list of Honorary, Corresponding, Active and Associate Members of the Maine Ornithological Society, December 1, 1906.

Honorary Members.

BREWSTER, WM., Cambridge, Mass.
 BROWN, NATHAN CLIFFORD, Portland, Me.
 DUTCHER, WM., New York.
 HARDY, MANLY, Brewer, Me.
 MERRILL, HARRY, Bangor, Me.
 PALMER, DR. T. S., Washington, D. C.
 STANTON, PROF. J. Y., Lewiston, Me.
 SMITH, EVERETT, Portland, Me.

Corresponding Members.

BENT, ARTHUR C., Taunton, Mass.,	1904
CHILDS, HON. JOHN LEWIS, Floral Park, N. Y.,	1903
DURFEE, OWEN, Fall River, Mass.,	1904
PHILLIPS, SHERMAN E., Rochester, N. H.,	1903
SPAULDING, FRED. B., Lancaster, N. H.,	1906
THAYER, JOHN E., Lancaster, Mass.,	1906
WILLARD, BERT G., Millis, Mass.,	1906

Active Members.

ABBOTT, MRS. FRED P., Saco,	1906
ANNE, MISS ETHEL, Gardiner,	1902
ATKINS, MRS. CHAS. G., East Orland,	1906
BERRY, HENRY E., Damariscotta,	1905
BERRY, MISS FLORA B., Portland,	1906
BROWNSON, W. H., Portland,	1902
BROWN, MISS BERTHA L., Bangor,	1905
BESSEY, DR. M. W., Waterville,	1899
BEEDE, MISS ABBIE S., North Berwick,	1906
BATES, SAMUEL L., Portland,	1906
BLAIR, MRS. LOUIS, Jackman,	1906

CUSHMAN, GEO. E., Portland,	1903
CLARK, D. CROMMETT, Waterville,	1906
COOPER, WM., Milo,	1901
CLARK, CLARENCE H., Lubec,	1904
COREY, EBEN F., Boston,	1905
CARLETON, HON. L. T., Augusta,	1900
DAVID, FRED M., Damariscotta,	1906
DINGLEY, MRS. FRED, Gardiner,	1906
DUTCHER, WM., New York,	1902
DAVIS, MRS. GILMAN, Portland,	1906
DUFFETT, MISS CHARLOTTE, Portland,	1905
DAVEIS, MISS MABEL, Portland,	1904
DILL, HOMER R., Gardiner,	1894
ELLIS, HIRAM, Portland,	1904
EASTMAN, MISS SARA C., Portland,	1905
ELLIS, MRS. WM. G., Gardiner,	1906
ECKSTORM, MRS. FANNY HARDY, Brewer,	1905
FOX, DANIEL W., Portland,	1906
FULLER, MISS CARRIE, Rockport,	1906
FOSTER, MRS. BERTHA, Burnham,	1905
FOBES, HAROLD B., Portland,	1906
FISKE, MISS MARY M., Bath,	1906
FANNING, JED. F., Portland,	1896
GODDARD, HON. A. M., Augusta,	1904
HARDY, MANLY, Brewer,	1904
HODGDON, MISS MYRTLE H., Augusta,	1901
HITCHINGS, PROF. E. F., Waterville,	1906
HULBERT, PROF. H. W., Bangor,	1905
HAMMOND, M. F., Portland,	1906
HOOPER, MRS. FRED N., Woodfords,	1902
INGRAHAM, MISS ANNIE B., Rockport,	1906
JORDAN, FRITZ H., Portland,	1902
JORDAN, MISS NELLIE B., Alfred,	1902
KNIGHT, PROF. ORA W., Bangor,	1895
KENDALL, DR. W. C., Washington, D. C.,	1902

LEE, PROF. LESLIE A., Brunswick,	1896
LIBBY, MISS ELLA L., Portland,	1905
LEGGE, LOUIS E., Portland,	1905
LARRABEE, PROF. AUSTIN P., Salt Lake City, Utah,	F.
LIBBY, GEO. D., Gardiner,	1896
LANE, PROF. ASA LYMAN, Good Will Farm,	1896
MORIN, JOS. C., Fort Kent,	1902
MARKS, MRS. A. E., East Orland,	1906
MORRILL, MISS ETHEL B., Pittsfield,	1893
MEAD, JAMES CARROLL, North Bridgton,	F.
NORTON, ARTHUR H., Portland,	1896
NORTON, MRS. A. H., Portland,	1899
NOBLE, FRANK T., Augusta,	1901
OLNEY, MISS L. E., Bath,	1906
PARKER, MISS ETTA, Portland,	1906
POWERS, WM. L., Gardiner,	F.
PAGE, HARRY B., Farmington,	1906
PEABODY, LUCY G., Machias,	1906
ROGERS, GEO. L., Gardiner,	1903
RUNDLETT, MRS. I. B., Portland,	1905
RICHARDS, FRANK M., Farmington,	1896
RUSSELL, MISS ELIZABETH W., Portland,	1906
REYNOLDS, ARTHUR T., Gardiner,	1906
RICHARDSON, A. F., Castine,	1906
RIDLEY, MISS MABEL P., Castine,	1902
SMITH, FRANK A., Gardiner,	1906
SOULE, MISS MARION, Gardiner,	1906
STEVENS, MISS C. M., Portland,	1906
SWAIN, J. MERTON, Skowhegan,	1895
SEWALL, MRS. EMMA D., Bath,	1904
SPINNEY, CAPT. H. L., Seguin,	1896
SWEET, DANA W., Phillips,	1902
SAWYER, CLARENCE E., Brunswick,	1901
SNOW, MISS MARY, Brooklyn,	1898
TUFTS, LEROY M., Farmington,	1905

WALKER, W. G., Castine,	1906
WHIPPLE, WM. H., Portland,	1906
WEEKS, MRS. GERTRUDE, Portland,	1906
WENTWORTH, MRS. E. P., Portland,	1899
WILLIAMS, L. C., Athens,	1903

Associate Members.

HILL, DR. W. SCOTT, Augusta.
RITCHIE, SANFORD, Dover.
BATES, MRS. A. F. C., Waterville.
FOGG, WADE A., Bangor.
MERRILL, REV. B. B., Skowhegan.

Migration Reports—Dates of Departure.

Following are the names of members who have furnished reports, giving dates when the different species of birds were last seen at their respective stations: Elmer A. Baker, Bingham, Somerset County; J. Merton Swain, Skowhegan, Somerset County; Dana W. Sweet, Avon, Franklin County; Everett E. Johnson, East Hebron, Oxford County; Arthur H. Norton, Westbrook, Cumberland County.

The reports show that good work has been done by the observers, although there are many blank spaces, for it is impossible to make a complete fall report unless one has almost unlimited time at his disposal. It is hoped that others will take an active interest in this particular line of work. Special attention should be given to the species that migrate during July and August.

	1902.	1903.	1904.
BINGHAM, AVON, E. HEBRON, SK'WH'G'N, AVON, E. HEBRON, AVON, E. HEBRON, WESTER, K.			
Pied-billed Grebe,			
Dusky Duck,			
Blue-winged Teal,			
Canada Goose,			
American Bittern,			
Blue Heron,	Sept. 8	Apr. 25	
Black-crowned Night Heron,	Aug. 15	Oct. 24	
Sora Rail,	Sept. 8		Sept. 10
American Coot,			
American Woodcock,			
Solitary Sandpiper,	May 19		
Spotted Sandpiper,	Sept. 21	Sept. 10	Oct. 6
Marsh Hawk,	" 7	Aug. 30	Oct. 2
Sharp-shinned Hawk,		" 29	" 4
Cooper's Hawk,	" 6	Oct. 14	Aug. 24
American Goshawk,			Oct. 22
Red-tailed Hawk,	Nov. 1	Dec. 19	
Red-shouldered Hawk,		Oct. 7	" 22
Broad-winged Hawk,		" 15	" 2
	Aug. 15	Sept. 4	Aug. 12

	Aug. 14	Sept. 27	May 13	Sept. 30	Oct. 1	Sept. 20
Pigeon Hawk,						Sept. 1
Sparrow Hawk,						" 1
Fish Hawk,						" 26
Saw-whet Owl,						
American Hawk Owl,						
Black-billed Cuckoo,	July 13	Sept. 1				
Belted Kingfisher,	Oct. 6	Nov. 9				
Hairy Woodpecker,						
Yellow-bellied Woodpecker,	" 17	Oct. 7				
Flicker,	" 17	" 1				
Whip-poor-will,	Sept. 1	" 1				
Nighthawk,	" 14	Sept. 14				
Chimney Swift,	" 7	" 7				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird,	" 12	Aug. 30				
Kingbird,	Aug. 15					
Crested Flycatcher,	" 5					
Phoebe,	Sept. 26	Oct. 7				
Olive-sided Flycatcher,	" 13	Sept. 14				
Wood Pewee,						
Alder Flycatcher,	Aug. 31	Aug. 17				
Least Flycatcher,						
Prairie Horned Lark,						
American Crow,	Oct. 22	Nov. 7				
Bobolink,	Aug. 19	Aug. 27				
Cowbird,						
Red-winged Blackbird,						
Meadowlark,						
Baltimore Oriole,	" 15	" 2				
Rusty Blackbird,						
Bronzed Grackle,						
Pine Grosbeak,						
Purple Finch,	" 11	Oct. 4				
White-winged Crossbill,						
Redpoll,						
American Goldfinch,	Resident	Feb. 4				
Snow Bunting,		Feb. 16				

Vesper Sparrow,	Oct. 17	Oct. 17	Oct. 27	Oct. 11	Oct. 9	Oct. 11	Oct. 22	Sept. 16
Savanna Sparrow,	Sept. 24	May 20	" 16	Aug. 29	May 25	Sept. 18	Aug. 8	" 21
White-crowned Sparrow,	Oct. 15	Oct. 11	"	"	"	Oct. 15	Oct. 13	" 25
White-throated Sparrow,	Oct. 15	Sept. 18	" 2	Sept. 13	Nov. 4	" 20	Oct. 11	Oct. 11
Tree Sparrow,	Nov. 10	Mch. 30	Mch. 30	Apr. 18	Apr. 11	May 1	Apr. 24	Nov. 15
Chipping Sparrow,	Nov. 7	Oct. 8	" 21	Oct. 12	Sept. 23	Oct. 23	Sept. 27	Oct. 17
Field Sparrow,	Sept. 27	" 15	"	"	"	"	"	"
Slate-colored Junco,	Oct. 29	Nov. 16	Nov. 12	Nov. 12	Apr. 25	Resident	May 6	May 2
Song Sparrow,	" 23	Oct. 30	Oct. 24	Oct. 29	Nov. 21	Oct. 27	Nov. 14	Nov. 16
Swamp Sparrow,	"	" 8	"	"	" 17	" 1	" 1	" 19
Fox Sparrow,	" 12	"	"	" 23	Apr. 10	" 14	May 6	Apr. 18
Rose-breasted Grosbeak,	Sept. 11	Aug. 22	"	Aug. 9	Nov. 1	Sept. 9	Aug. 2	Nov. 2
Indigo Bunting,	Oct. 2	Aug. 3	Sept. 1	" 29	Aug. 12	" 27	" 13	"
Scarlet Tanager,	Aug. 3	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Purple Martin,	" 22	Sept. 1	Sept. 2	" 10	"	Aug. 10	"	"
Cliff Swallow,	Sept. 6	Aug. 24	" 5	" 10	Sept. 2	Sept. 30	Sept. 6	Sept. 19
Barn Swallow,	July 5	Sept. 13	Aug. 30	July 14	"	Sept. 10	Aug. 12	" 19
Tree Swallow,	Aug. 3	Sept. 13	" 30	Aug. 29	" 18	Aug. 28	Aug. 12	" 19
Bank Swallow,	Sept. 14	Oct. 1	"	"	"	July 21	Sept. 17	" 28
Cedar Waxwing,	" 2	"	"	"	"	Sept. 18	"	"
Northern Shrike,	Aug. 3	" 7	Sept. 9	" 13	"	Mch. 23	"	"
Loggerhead Shrike,	Oct. 2	"	"	"	"	Aug. 10	" 6	" 2
Red-eyed Vireo,	Oct. 2	"	Sept. 5	"	"	Sept. 5	"	"
Philadelphia Vireo,	"	"	Oct. 5	"	"	" 22	"	"
Warbling Vireo,	Sept. 18	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Yellow-throated Vireo,	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Blue-headed Vireo,	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Black and White Warbler,	Sept. 21	Aug. 1	Sept. 20	Sept. 20	" 27	" 1	" 8	July 1
Nashville Warbler,	" 9	Sept. 27	Aug. 30	Aug. 30	" 27	"	" 17	Aug. 27
Northern Parula Warbler,	Aug. 14	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Cape May Warbler,	Oct. 2	Aug. 2	"	"	"	"	"	"
Yellow Warbler,	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Black-throated Blue Warbler,	Oct. 2	Aug. 2	"	"	"	Sept. 7	" 5	Sept. 4

The Journal

of the

Maine Ornithological Society

A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study and Protection of Birds

Vol. VIII

Published December 1, 1906

No. 4

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: 50 cents a year; 15 cents a copy

OFFICERS OF THE MAINE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Pres., PROF. LESLIE A. LEE, Brunswick
Vice-Pres., DR. H. H. BROCK, Portland
Sec.-Treas., J. MERTON SWAIN, Skowhegan
Councillors, CAPT. H. L. SPINNEY, Seguin
ORA W. KNIGHT, Bangor

W. H. BROWNSON, Portland,
Editor
FRANK T. NOBLE, Augusta
Associate Editor

In closing the eighth volume of the JOURNAL, the editor desires to thank the members for the cheerfulness with which they have responded to his frequent requests for material for publication. It has not always been easy to fill so many pages with matter of general interest, but a call for help has never been refused. The migration reports are now printed in full up to date; the warbler papers have been continued with only occasional interruptions; a number of leading articles of more than ordinary value have been furnished, and the illustrations have been in every respect adequate, except that more of the same kind would be desirable. The list of members printed in this issue shows that we have a society of sufficient size to warrant the publication of a creditable JOURNAL, and the financial backing ought to be sufficient to make possible further improvements in its size and typographical appearance. The list of subscribers is about as large as the roll of members, and it might be well for the society to consider an increase in the subscription price. In that way it is possible that the yearly revenue might become larger. We still lack funds to do what we wish, and each member should make a special effort the coming winter to procure at least one new name for the active list. It is believed that the membership could be doubled if sufficient effort should be made in the direction suggested. For the coming year it is urged that members continue to send notes of general interest, by making record of everything in any degree out of the ordinary.

The Christmas bird census of last year was so successful, and the reports were of so much permanent value, that it will be repeated this year in much the same manner as before. Begin on the morning of December 23rd and continue until the evening of January 1st. Keep as accurate account as possible of the number of every species you see and send the reports to the editor, City building, Portland, during the first week of January. It is desirable that the report be sent, even if the list of birds seen is not large. In connection with the report add all items of interest noted during the ten days of the Christmas census.

Reports are coming from several different parts of the state that the American Goshawk is much more plentiful than usual the present fall. A number of specimens have been sent to taxidermists, and the farmers are having some trouble to protect their poultry from this bold robber.

White-winged Crossbills are abundant throughout southern Maine just now. Capt. Spinney reports a considerable flight of these birds in a note printed in this number of the JOURNAL, and in the pitch-pine woods of Cape Elizabeth there has been a flock of at least two hundred of the same species during a period of two or three weeks. Only here and there has an individual of the American Crossbill been observed with the others.

Last fall and winter there was an unusual flight of Snowy Owls in many sections of this state and this fall already the taxidermists are reporting that they are receiving quite a number of Owls of this Arctic species. They are not yet here in the abundance of the winter of 1905-6.

Redpolls and Pine Grosbeaks have arrived in southern Maine in flocks of fair size. They were last abundant in the winter of 1903-4, but since then until the present season they have been reported only as occasional. Around Portland Pine Grosbeaks have been seen in half a dozen different localities and it is likely that there will be more of them as the season advances.

In the last number of the JOURNAL Mr. Ruthven Deane reported Loons as unusually plentiful at Scarborough Beach during the summer. In this number Messrs Mead, of North Bridgton, and Sweet, of Phillips, call attention to the abundance of the same bird in their sections, and the observations of these ornithologists, thus taken together, emphasize an item of general interest, making it sure that the Loon has, for one season, at least, resumed its former status in Maine waters.

Bird Notes.

Notes and observations upon bird life within our State are earnestly desired from all our readers for publication in this column, and should be sent to the Associate Editor, Frank T. Noble, Augusta, Maine.

We note with much satisfaction the increasing frequency with which the members of our society report to this JOURNAL their ornithological observations. This is an important part of our duties, one to another, and should be shared in by all interested in bird life. The JOURNAL'S columns are always open to contributors of items of general interest relating to Maine birds, and we trust our members will, through this medium, disseminate such knowledge as they personally possess.

Fall Notes from Seguin.

The fall in this locality has proved unusually barren of bird life. While I am unable to give any reason for it, a few facts have suggested the following opinion.

In looking over my official journal I find the prevailing winds for September were from northeast to southwest, fresh breezes, not much cloudy weather. Besides that, there was a well developed moon most of the month. I find October very much worse in winds, and same conditions. The conditions at the station, as I have before stated, most favorable to see the migration of small birds, are either very dark, moderate nights, or after a strong northwest wind during the night, when at daylight the birds can be seen by hundreds arriving from seaward to the island. These conditions have not occurred during the season thus far, but instead a fair wind has prevailed, with nights lighted enough by the moon so that it would not seem reasonable that the birds would either be blown out of the line of flight, or lose their course for want of landmarks. Fall records for inland may throw some light on the matter, but at present the above reasons are all that suggest a reason to me.

With the sea birds it has been the same, especially with the Scoter Ducks. This is the first fall for twenty-three years I have not had Coots, as they are commonly called, what I wanted to eat both spring and fall. So few have been seen passing the island up to the

present date that I have yet to get my annual feed. The assertion has been made to me by a number of sportsmen that, under the conditions of weather that have prevailed this fall, the Scoters fly direct from Cape Sable to Cape Cod. That fact I cannot believe until it is given from more authentic sources than I have yet received it. As far as I can learn, the same scarcity of the Scoter Ducks prevails all along the coast as in my vicinity.

The middle of September my attention was claimed by the scarcity of the Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius*), which usually at that time could be seen in numbers any day, and up to the present date I have not sighted a dozen of that species, when usually during the same period hundreds of them would be seen. This fact indicates to me that the birds for that period have probably taken another direction of flight. The Common Finches, Song Sparrows and Juncos, which are always to be seen here in thousands during the last of September and through October, have not appeared until within the last few days, and are in limited numbers. The first of September there was an unusual number of American Goldfinches about the island, and they continued to pass over in large flocks every day, and even at the present time a few are to be seen occasionally. All other small birds have been so scarce that I have made few notes. I here give you a few.

April 19th. 11.45 P. M., moderate wind, southeast to south, with few stars to be seen. While in the lantern looking after the light, something struck the dome of the lantern, which sounded as if someone had fired a gun. I took a hand lantern and went out doors, and at the base of the light tower found a Woodcock that had just been killed. Its bill was broken across the nostrils by the concussion. Another bird was noticed flying around in rays of light, but I could not determine the species.

September 1st. A flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches arrived at the island to-day. They are very busy about the buildings looking for food. Flocks of Cedar Waxwings are also plentiful, feeding on the elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), which grows abundantly on the island. Pigeon Hawks were, as usual, preying upon the small birds

as they arrive. There were two or three of the Hawks that stopped a few days. September 10th. 2.00 A. M., wind north, showery. Two Pine Warblers were on the glass of lantern. September 11th. Golden-winged Woodpeckers arrived to-day in numbers. A Sparrow Hawk, a bird seldom seen on the island, was observed. A straggling Scoter Duck was also seen.

October 9th. Gale south southeast. A large flight of Gannets have steadily passed the island to-day, going west, and quite a flight of Scoter Ducks, the only ones in numbers noticed since September 13th. The first flight of Juncos and Sparrows (mostly Song and a scattering White-throat) are on the island to-day. Also noticed Golden-crowned Kinglet. A number of Red-breasted Nuthatches were also noticed, one of them alighting on my shoulder as I passed along, and diligently looked me over to apparently learn what species I belonged to.

These are the only instances up to the 3rd that I have considered worth noting thus far this fall. About ten days ago a few straggling White-winged Crossbills were noticed passing over the island. Saturday, the 3rd, the weather cleared, the wind abating somewhat and shifting from northeast to north. Large flocks of White-winged Crossbills passed over the island all day, with now and then a small flock of Snowflakes, and scattering Shore Larks. About fifty American Eider Ducks were feeding at the south end of the island, the first I have noticed this season. This date is, I think, unusually early, as I look for the flight about November 20th. A few Long-tailed Ducks were also noticed, and a scattering Cormorant may be seen feeding around the island.

October 4th. This morning at sunrise the White-winged Crossbills commenced to arrive at the island from an east to southeast direction, and for an hour I stood and watched them. During that time two or three flocks, containing from ten to fifty individuals, were constantly in sight, one flock following the other and passing to Small Point, to the west. The Duck Hawk, which at this season is usually common on the island, has thus far been noticed in but

three instances. An American Goshawk was noticed to-day, the first I have seen on the island for two or more years. This species seldom visits this island.

HERBERT L. SPINNEY.

Seguin, Nov. 4, 1906.

THE HAWK WHICH ESCAPED.—No doubt most of your readers read more or less about the Hawk that got away from the Milo taxidermist, in the daily newspapers, for the same was spread about even to Boston dailies. Well, the facts are these: A rather large species of Hawk was sent on to me by express, alive, and of course boxed, so to kill it at once out of its misery, I loosed a stave off the box, and reached out to get a thick mitten I have for that purpose, not thinking that the Hawk, which appeared dead, or nearly so, would have taken the advantage so promptly, but he did, and with an electric rush darted through the opening, which was very narrow. Then he darted about the room, making things fly; as the room is lofty, he had some space for his antics. He then seemed to back a little and took a fierce bang clean through the clear glass windows, smashing a square 30 x 15 to smithereens, and he dropped down outside, apparently dead. I seized a thick stick, quite four feet long, rushed downstairs, and got up to his birdship just as he had risen about four feet from the ground. I aimed a blow, a two-handed one, at him, knocking him quite down to the ground with a thud. I could have bet a large sum that that Hawk was done for, but up he gets, scoops away along the ground like a swallow, and gets clean away as neatly and easily as though nothing had happened to him. If that bird didn't deserve to live, tell me so. I watched as far as I could see him, which was a long way; he never lit in sight, and took his troubles clean off, leaving me with my troubles to mend the window. I was not sure of the species, but it was a red-bellied Hawk, as I could see.

WILLIAM COOPER.

Milo, Nov. 5, 1906.

HAWKS ABUNDANT.—My experience tells me that Hawks, as well as Snowy Owls, seem to come in bunches. Nine years ago I had seven or eight Goshawks; since then I have not had one until this season and I have had six already. It is the same with the Red-tailed Hawk. Can anyone explain this? The other taxidermists might compare notes.

WILLIAM COOPER.

Milo, Nov. 5, 1906.

A FLOCK OF CHEWINKS.—I have never found the Chewink to be a very common bird here in Maine. An individual now and then, or at most a pair, has been the extent of my observations of this species in northern Cumberland County during thirty odd years. Consequently imagine my surprise on the 31st of July of the past summer to find a large flock of Chewinks, seemingly scores of them, on the top of Pleasant Mountain (2,020 ft. altitude). In the flock were many young birds, but a goodly number were in adult plumage and many of the males were in song. The previous day had been showery and a heavy northwest wind had blown all night, leading me to believe that a wave of migrants had paused here to seek shelter from the elements. Before night they had disappeared.

JAS. CARROLL MEAD.

North Bridgton, Oct., 1906.

LOONS AGAIN PLENTIFUL.—I wonder if observers in other localities have noted any increase in the number of Loons during the last year or two. Here on Long Lake they had apparently diminished in numbers seriously until this present year, when I have been gladdened by the sight and sound of them something as of old. I have thought that perhaps the advent of the motor boat had frightened them away, until learning that it is not necessarily a menace. They have returned to their haunts. How has it been elsewhere?

JAS. CARROLL MEAD.

North Bridgton, Oct., 1906.

COWBIRD IN VIREO'S NEST.—Recently while examining various specimens in the collection of Mr. Thomas J. Battey, of Providence, R. I., the data accompanying a nest of the Red-eyed Vireo, taken at Camp Wyonegonic, Bridgton, Maine, interested me.

Mr. Battey kindly consented to its use in the JOURNAL, and allowed me to make the following copy :

"This beautiful nest, trimmed with birch bark, was built by the Red-eyed Vireo in a hazel bush near the Camp at Bridgton, 1905. After one egg was laid, a Cowbird deposited one, and then the Vireo laid one more. The Cowbird hatched first and then one of the Vireos. The birds grew nicely until the Cowbird left the nest, when the Vireos neglected their own little fledgling, and it died, apparently starved. The other egg did not hatch. T. J. B[ATTEY]."

ARTHUR H. NORTON.

Portland, Oct. 15, 1906.

NOTES FROM PHILLIPS.—A flock of Herring Gulls came to Sweet's Pond, New Vineyard, April 29th, and stayed over a week. I saw as many as sixteen at one time. May 5th, I saw on the same pond a flock of nine Loons, where I had seen but two last year and none previously. May 21st, I discovered a pair of Philadelphia Vireos in the maples in front of my house. They remained there a week or more. The song was similar to that of the Red-eyed Vireo, but much less varied, and could be heard only about one-quarter as far. The Warblers came about a week later than usual, and some of the migrant birds were unusually late in taking their departure for the north. May 23rd, I saw a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. The last one previously seen was May 14th, up to which date they had been common. I saw a Wilson's Warbler feeding among the apple blossoms in my garden May 29th. This bird remained until May 31st, when I saw it for the last time. It had not the least vestige of a crown cap. I saw two males May 30th, at the edge of an alder bog. I also saw a Solitary Sandpiper the same day. A pair of Juncos built a nest in my barn eight feet from the ground. The nest was in a mortise of a crossbeam overhead, in the middle of a

driveway. I didn't discover it until I found the young birds on the ground beneath, just after they had vacated the nest. In the spring, during snowstorms, Juncos and Song Sparrows had come in here for shelter, and to pick up food from the ground. I had fed them liberally with seeds, and probably pleasant memories had suggested this as a good place for a home. July 29th, I flushed an Ovenbird from its nest, which had three eggs.

D. W. SWEET.

Phillips, Oct. 15, 1906.

A CONNECTICUT WARBLER.—During the latter part of September I saw several Connecticut Warblers in the woods of Cape Elizabeth, and undoubtedly there was quite a flight of these birds at about that time. The first time one of these Warblers was noted I could not be fully sure what species it was. That was on the 16th of September. On the following day, Sept. 17, 1906, a cat brought to a cottage, about two hundred yards from the spot where I had seen the bird which puzzled me, a young male Connecticut Warbler. The specimen was taken to Mr. Arthur H. Norton and was fully verified by him, after comparison with the skins in his possession. This, I believe, is the seventh record of this Warbler in southwestern Maine. The previous six records are as follows: Brown, Cape Elizabeth, Aug. 30, 1878, Abstract proceedings Portland Society Natural History, 1882; Goodale, Saco, Sept., 1885, Sept. 8, 1886, and Sept. 15, 1886; Goodale in *Auk*, Vol. IV, p. 77; Norton, Westbrook, Sept. 20, 1896, Bulletin University of Maine, No. III, p. 119; Norton, Westbrook, Sept. 5, 1901, Journal Maine Ornithological Society, Vol. VI, p. 47.

W. H. BROWNSON.

Portland, Nov. 10, 1906.

BIRD TRIP TO FRANKLIN COUNTY.—List of birds seen on a two weeks' vacation trip in July to Franklin County. Hermit Thrush, Loon, Red-eyed Vireo, Chipping, Song, White-throated, Vesper, Savanna Sparrows, Woodcock, Marsh Hawk, American

Bittern, Barn Swallow, Chimney Swift, Phoebe, Crossbill (American), Goldfinch, Junco, Indigo Bunting, Northern Water Thrush, White and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Purple Martin, Winter Wren, Hairy and Downy Woodpecker, American Merganser with eight young, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Chickadee, Flicker, Robin, Myrtle, Canadian, Wilson's, Magnolia Warblers, Redstart, Northern Yellowthroat.

A Fish Hawk alighted in a pine tree about twelve feet from the ground at Highland Lake in September and seemed to pay little heed to the half-dozen people that were sitting beneath the shade of the pine. After remaining there several minutes, one of the men secured a rifle and fired, but missed the bird, which simply flew to a higher branch twenty-five feet from the ground. A second shot was fired and the bird was killed, which proved to be the above species. The spread of the wings from tip to tip measured exactly five feet.

LOUIS E. LEGGE.

Portland, Oct. 19, 1906.

NOTES FROM GARDINER.—Barred Owls have been unusually abundant this fall. Mr. Homer R. Dill, the state taxidermist, has received as many during September, October and November, for mounting, as he has received for the last twelve years. In all his experience he does not recollect mounting more than four or five of this particular species in a whole year, and in some years not more than two have been received. But this fall thirty-five have been sent him up to date.

Wood Ducks are more abundant than usual, and the gunners have made some good bags.

A Snowy Owl was received by Mr. Dill in the month of September. It was taken in Waterville. Two more were received in October, and another in November. In view of the fact that the usual flight of these birds and the time of greatest abundance is December and January, the occurrence of these early stragglers seems deserving of more than a passing note. It is sincerely hoped

that our observers along the coast will keep a sharp lookout for our friends from the north, and report anything unusual in their flight.

The White-throated Sparrows have been abundant and unusually fearless this fall.

Two of Principal Powers' Saturday Nature Club, Elizabeth Powers and John Heselton, each aged five years, were playing in the dooryard at No. 26 Lincoln street, Gardiner, Me., when one of them ran into the house, crying, "Come out quick and see the skunk." The skunk proved to be a mink, and he was soon captured alive, but died during the night. Later investigation developed the fact that Frank Libby, another of the club, had seen the same, or another, mink, earlier in the day in Mr. Libby's yard on Dresden street.

WILLIAM L. POWERS.

Gardiner, Nov. 19.

ANOTHER RED PHALAROPE (*Crymophilus fulicarius*) NEAR PORTLAND.—On October 17, 1906, I had the privilege of examining a Red Phalarope in the flesh. According to Mr. Blanchard Pillsbury, who had it, it had been shot October 16th, at Searboro, Me., in "Atlantic House Pond." It was in winter plumage. Other local records are H. H. Brock, *Auk*, Vol. XII, p. 173, 1896; A. H. Norton, this JOURNAL, Vol. VII, p. 47, 1905.

ARTHUR H. NORTON.

Portland, Nov. 19.

THE TOWHEE IN GARDINER.—Mr. Homer Dill reports seeing a Towhee in his dooryard, Wednesday morning, November 21st. This bird has been reported from Togus, six miles distant, but though it has been watched for in Gardiner for years, no specimen has ever been seen before.

W. L. POWERS.

Gardiner, Nov. 21.



100127125